



# IRAQ

## 2023 IFRC network country plan

Funding Requirement **CHF 10.5M**

Appeal number **MAAIQ002**

### In support of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society



**18**

National Society branches



**2,400**

National Society staff



**11,853**

National Society volunteers

### People to be reached



**61,000**

Ongoing emergency operations



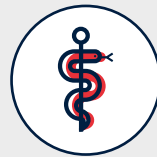
**140,000**

Climate and environment



**250,000**

Disasters and crises



**300,000**

Health and wellbeing



**120,000**

Migration and displacement



**80,000**

Values, power and inclusion

### IFRC network multiyear focus

#### Longer term needs

- health
- livelihoods
- protracted displacement
- climate change adaptation

#### Capacity development

- positioning
- financial management
- resource mobilization
- youth engagement

### Key country data

Population **41.2M**

INFORM severity rating **high**

Climate ND-GAIN Index rank **66**

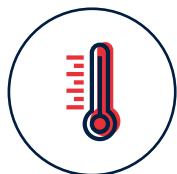
Human Development Index rank **123**

Population below poverty level **18.9%**

## Hazards



Climate change



Rise in temperature



Violence



Poverty



Food insecurity



Displacement

## Funding requirements

**Total 10.5M** CHF

Through the IFRC

**4.6M** CHF

Through Participating National Societies

**5.9M** CHF

### IFRC Breakdown

#### Longer term needs

**350,000** CHF  
Climate and environment

**600,000** CHF  
Disasters and crises

**2.5M** CHF  
Health and wellbeing

**150,000** CHF  
Migration and displacement

**70,000** CHF  
Values, power and inclusion

**970,000** CHF  
Enabling local actors

## Participating National Societies

British Red Cross\*

Danish Red Cross

German Red Cross

Japanese Red Cross Society\*

Norwegian Red Cross

Swedish Red Cross



# NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

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**The Iraqi Red Crescent Society** is an independent, volunteer-based organization that works to alleviate the suffering of Iraq's most vulnerable communities. As the largest humanitarian organization in Iraq, its knowledge of the country and the political landscape is vast. Its presence and local networks across the country are exceptionally well established, allowing the National Society to reach vulnerable populations who are not served by other humanitarian actors, including in remote areas. This nationwide coverage means the National Society can implement large-scale and long-term preparedness and response programmes, through 18 governorate branches and a national network of 12,000 volunteers who play a critical role at every stage of programming.

The main programmes run by the National Society include disaster management, first aid, preventive and curative health, water, sanitation and hygiene, dissemination of international humanitarian law, youth activities, restoring family links, and awareness

programmes for the explosive remnants of war. It has extensive expertise with various types of programming, including through multilateral projects supported by the IFRC, partner National Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). In 2021 and 2022, the National Society reached more than 5.5 million people through its various interventions.

Active in the country since the 1930s, the National Society closely coordinates with the Iraqi Government and humanitarian organizations. It derives its mandate as an auxiliary to the Government's humanitarian efforts through the Iraqi Civil Code. The National Society functions as an autonomous, non-political, non-partisan organization, maintaining its independence. The country's authorities recognize the National Society as a first responder with responsibility for relief and health services in the first 72 hours after an emergency, and the National Society also heads the medical emergency response cell within camps.

## IFRC NETWORK ACTION IN 2023

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### Joint situational analysis

The protracted humanitarian crisis in Iraq remains one of the largest and most volatile in the world and, as of 2022, some 2.5 million people in the country need humanitarian assistance. The people most in need continue to be those who have been directly affected by conflicts and by the COVID-19 pandemic. These include internally displaced persons, refugees, and returnees both inside and outside of camps, and host communities.

Four years after the end of the large-scale military operations against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), significant progress is being made. More than 80 per cent of the 6.1 million people who were displaced have returned home, and many of those directly affected by the crisis are being brought slowly back towards parity with other Iraqis.

However, although the number of people needing assistance has decreased, the severity of their needs has worsened. The legacy of suffering, destruction and displacement from the crisis remains, with deep and acute humanitarian vulnerabilities persisting among a segment of people who were directly affected by

conflict. More than one million internally displaced persons have not yet found a sustainable path back home following the conflict. The most vulnerable live in abandoned, unfinished buildings and informal settlements. They lack access to health care and sanitation facilities, and they face increased food insecurity and protection risks.

The years of conflict and economic stagnation have affected nearly every aspect of society. Many people have been unable to recover economically and have lost their resilience to overcome the crisis, which has affected access to food, drinking water, protection, education, hygiene and shelter. A great number of vulnerable households had to adopt drastic measures to survive, reducing their number of meals, neglecting health care needs and accumulating debts. Many left their homes as they were unable to afford the rent.

The security situation continues to be precarious. Iraq is considered to be one of the most high-risk countries by the INFORM index due to the growing likelihood of conflict. In recent decades, the country has faced serious security threats, with the situation punctuated by episodes of extreme violence which require stringent security measures to be implemented.

Decades of war, sanctions, occupation, social instability and the COVID-19 pandemic have left health systems fragile and strained. Community-based surveillance and health management information systems are weak. There are shortages of trained health personnel, drugs and other medical supplies. The availability of primary health care services is limited and the health care infrastructure is either inadequate, damaged or destroyed. The already complex humanitarian situation is compounded by outbreaks of acute watery diarrhea and cholera, as well as COVID-19 and Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever; and new waves of COVID-19 could further overwhelm the system. With the health system stretched, people in conflict-affected populations are increasingly turning to negative coping mechanisms.

According to the UN Environment Programme, Iraq is the fifth most vulnerable country in the world to the effects of climate change. Extreme weather events such as heat, drought and dust storms are becoming more frequent and intense. Environmental degradation is rising across the country and increased salination threatens agriculture on 54 per cent of land. Despite historically being one of the Middle East's most water-rich countries, Iraq's water crisis is expected to persist and may bring humanitarian, economic, security and social consequences, including population movement. [Balancing the needs of the environment and agriculture in Iraq is a challenge](#), and the Iraqi Government lacks a clear

management plan for the future. The security risks associated with [water depletion](#) could also be exacerbated by drought and climate change.

Gaps in the humanitarian response in Iraq are mostly due to a lack of funding, access, partner presence, camp closures and the reprioritization of beneficiaries. Some are also related to COVID-19. Funding is declining dramatically and is currently insufficient to maintain core services in camps for internally displaced persons, much less to fill gaps in public services. Humanitarian organizations report deteriorating living standards in the communities affected. Although the situation remains precarious, there is general agreement that the focus needs to shift from humanitarian assistance to longer-term objectives and interventions. The humanitarian community in Iraq has taken several steps in support of this transition, scaling down the existing whole-system, international humanitarian assistance architecture. In recent months, the UN and its humanitarian partners discussed funding shortfalls with key counterparts in a bid to address gaps in service. Through robust advocacy by the humanitarian community in Iraq, finance has now been secured to bridge these immediate gaps. Despite this, challenges remain for medium- to long-term planning, and more acute crises in other parts of the world compete for limited global resources.

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## Strategic priorities

### Climate and environment

Iraq faces multiple challenges which are either caused or exacerbated by climate change. These include prolonged heat waves, record low rainfall, loss of fertile land, salinization, insufficient infrastructure investment, water shortages and dust storms. Environmentally, the key climate-related risks are around flooding, droughts and water scarcity. Food production has also declined due to topsoil being removed and declining land productivity.

As water levels fall in the once great Tigris and Euphrates rivers, salt levels have risen and water quality has deteriorated. [Recent studies](#) show water scarcity to be a primary driver of migration from rural to urban areas, alongside challenges to sustainable agriculture and food security. In the latest stark warning of the threats that the warming climate poses, a report by Iraq's Ministry of Water Resources in late 2021 predicts

that without urgent action, Iraq's two main rivers will be entirely dry in coming years.

Drought has affected northern Iraq since early 2021, and governorates in the south have now seen lower water supply and quality for several years. Crop and livestock production has plummeted, impacting vulnerable communities that had already been affected by the conflict and displacement of recent years. At least seven million people in Iraq have been affected by drought in recent times, taking a massive toll on access to water, food, basic services such as electricity, and farmer livelihoods.

### Main actions and areas of support

The Iraqi Red Crescent is part of the IFRC [Global Climate Resilience Programme](#), which aims to foster an unprecedented scale-up in locally led climate-smart disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts to prevent and reduce climate-related disaster impacts, and build

community-level climate resilience. The programme aims to support 500 million people in 100 of the most climate-vulnerable countries, focusing on the least supported and marginalized communities. This holistic, multi-year programmatic approach consists of four operational pillars: (1) scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action and preparedness; (2) reducing the public health impacts of climate change; (3) addressing climate displacement; and (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

The IFRC network will support the Iraqi Red Crescent to ensure communities can better address the evolving impacts of climate change and take ownership of programmes to address climate risks by contributing their own insights, knowledge and ideas. They will be supported to serve as agents of change, catalyzing efforts to mitigate climate change and promote sustainable environmental practices, with the assistance of trained volunteers, youth and senior management.

#### Key activities:

- Conduct Training of Trainers for community-based disaster risk management (road to resilience) and school safety for National Society staff, youth and volunteers
- Carry out a workshop to assess the integration of climate smart programming into the National Society's programmes and operations
- Run awareness-raising sessions on climate change adaptation in governorate branches
- Conduct a study with the Iraq Meteorological Department on rainfall data, pattern, weather forecasting, early warning and impact on the local communities in target areas
- Train National Society staff, volunteers and youth volunteers about climate change, climate action and related areas
- Assess the indigenous knowledge for climate change adaptation and mitigation at community level
- Develop a local adaptation plan of action for targeted communities
- Develop awareness materials about adapting to climate change
- Increase advocacy, awareness raising and network with relevant government departments
- Develop environmental campaigns to mobilize greater efforts to mitigate climate change and to encourage behaviour changes, such as tree planting and restoration, beach clean-ups, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and reducing plastic use

## Statistics

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Sea water has moved upriver, **destroying 60,000 acres** of agricultural land and **30,000 trees**

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As of March 2022, an estimated **3,000 families** have been recorded as **displaced through drought and environmental degradation**, across eight governorates in central and southern Iraq

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Iraq **loses about 100,000 acres of agricultural land** every year

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**Globally, Iraq is identified as the fifth most vulnerable country** to decreased water and food availability, extreme temperatures and associated health problems

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## Disasters and crises

For real-time information on emergencies, see [IFRC GO page Iraq](#)

The diverse and varied geography of Iraq means that it is exposed to a broad array of environmental hazards. In addition to hydrometeorological hazards becoming more severe due to climate change, geophysical hazards also represent a threat. Iraq is situated in an active seismic zone and large parts of central Iraq are classified as high-risk areas.

Enduring conflict and civil violence, displacement and vulnerability to climate change all combine to make Iraq one of the region's most food-insecure countries. The complex crisis has created massive food insecurity and has profoundly affected the food system infrastructure, with many buildings, assets and fields destroyed, and disruption to the commercial activities that provide income for people to buy food. In rural areas, many employment opportunities sit along the food production chain, relying on agricultural production. In the Iraqi context, economic recovery and food security are tightly linked.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created further economic turmoil in Iraq. Along with the complex humanitarian crisis, lower oil prices and levels of public spending that were already difficult to sustain, the pandemic has left Iraq's economic future precarious. Poverty, one of the main drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition, remains high, especially in rural areas. The anticipated decline in the country's economic fortunes is expected to weaken food security even more and potentially further inflame public dissatisfaction. The National Society's relief operations ensured the food security of the most vulnerable families with cases of COVID-19.



## Main actions and areas of support

The IFRC network will support the Iraqi Red Crescent to ensure communities become more resilient to evolving and multiple shocks and hazards, and to ensure that people who are affected get the assistance and support they need. The IFRC network will further support the National Society to respond effectively to the wide spectrum of evolving crises and disasters, and ensure their auxiliary role in disaster risk management is well defined and recognized.

### Key activities:

- Form and train village disaster management committees in target communities
- Support communities to conduct an enhanced vulnerability and capacity assessment
- Organize community-based disaster risk reduction awareness-raising sessions, and train local farmers
- Conduct skill development and vocational trainings, specifically targeting vulnerable women
- Develop community-based disaster risk management plans for local communities and support their implementation
- Develop a workplan with partners, once a Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) assessment has taken place
- Carry out community engagement and accountability actions that encourage meaningful engagement with target communities
- Conduct school safety activities
- Revise National Society standard operating procedures and guidelines for cash and voucher assistance for future emergency response, recovery and development interventions
- Advocate for the National Society to participate in the Cash Consortium of Iraq technical working group
- Strengthen and build capacity of National Society staff and volunteers around cash and voucher assistance
- Develop National Society surge capacity by integrating technical human resources into the risk reduction register
- Procure food parcels for 20,000 households affected by disasters

- Plant drought-resistant seeds and tree species, and demonstrate resilient soil conservation methods
- Promote small-scale rainwater harvesting methods
- Support the National Society around the distribution of cash

## Statistics

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Around **a third of Iraq's population** depends on agriculture for income

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## Health and wellbeing

Over the last four decades, Iraq has witnessed rapid demographic and epidemiological change. The country's health care system is struggling to recover from years of war, sanctions, loss of workforce and political interference. Health facilities and the workforce are unevenly distributed and unable to meet public health needs. Along with a decline in medical and surgical services provided by the Ministry of Health, this has had a deep and widespread negative impact on public health. Many health facilities and hundreds of ambulances were damaged or destroyed in the conflict, and the remaining resources are now overwhelmed.

Although the Ministry of Health is working to address the issues, creating equitable access to health care in Iraq is an arduous and complex task. Issues around how health care is financed and the role of private health care are only now being tentatively addressed. National Society hospitals are an essential element of safely and effectively preventing, diagnosing and treating illness and disease, and rehabilitating patients. The government health system is under-resourced and does not have enough medical equipment and diagnostic tools. Urgent access to accredited medical and surgical services for critical cases such as trauma and accidents is considered a fundamental component of health systems provided in National Society hospitals.

## Main actions and areas of support

The IFRC network will support the Iraqi Red Crescent to realize its auxiliary role in providing health services, ensuring its position on the relevant country level public health strategy and policy platforms. At the community level, the IFRC network support will ensure communities can access sustainable, affordable health services and that health dignity is maintained throughout emergencies. The IFRC network will also make sure that communities have better access to affordable water and sanitation services, especially in communities which are particularly vulnerable to outbreaks.

## Key activities:

- Promote the National Society as an officially recognized and appropriately positioned member of relevant public health emergency preparedness and response coordination platforms
- Develop a clear vision for health, water and sanitation priorities by drafting health strategy, policy and relevant operational plans
- Develop well-informed, culturally appropriate and context-specific risk communication to improve community members' knowledge of health issues, and use local and social media to reinforce these messages
- Build capacity among health staff and volunteers on key health issues, community engagement, and in planning and running tailored community-based health activities
- Enhance integration of mental health and psychosocial support in the National Society programmes
- Conduct health education sessions and first aid training for National Society staff and volunteers and at a community level
- Provide first aid equipment at community level
- Support the National Society in developing a contingency plan that adequately responds to the health consequences of disasters and crises
- Support the National Society in building and maintaining communities' capacity to respond effectively to outbreaks of infectious disease
- Conduct water and sanitation assessments in communities, carry out awareness sessions on hygiene promotion and procure hygiene kits for targeted communities
- Repair existing water sources and water points in communities, as well as mobile or household water treatment plants

## Statistics

**Fifty-five per cent of deaths** in Iraq are attributed to non-communicable diseases such as cancer, heart disease, diabetes and chronic lung disease.

## Migration and displacement

Years of conflict, political, economic and social instability have led to unprecedented numbers of people being displaced in Iraq. The Iraq Humanitarian Needs Overview 2022 identified that the most acutely

vulnerable displaced and returnee families are often unable to meet basic needs due to lost livelihoods and increasing cost of living. Displaced households include thousands of children who face heightened protection risks, and are returning to damaged housing without access to basic services, food and safe drinking water.

Humanitarian actors also express concern about camp closures during the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak, with closures going ahead despite government COVID-19 protocols and the winter season. NGOs and other civil society groups have called on the Government to give internally displaced persons more time before closures, and to enhance coordination across regions. This will ensure returning internally displaced persons can reach their destinations across checkpoints and receive assistance. The UN has stressed that returns must be dignified, durable, informed, non-discriminatory, safe and voluntary.

Humanitarian organizations in Iraq, including the Iraqi Red Crescent, are addressing the needs of internally displaced persons by providing livelihoods support, training and job placements, helping to build household resilience, reducing reliance on negative coping mechanisms, and minimizing exposure to exploitation and abuse.

Iraq is also a country of origin of both refugees and Iraqis who have legally migrated out of Iraq, with the EU as their main destination. Iraq has also become a destination country for international migrant workers who come in response to demand in growth sectors, such as construction, domestic work, and hospitality services.

## Main actions and areas of support

The IFRC network will support the National Society to engage with migrants, displaced persons and host communities in order to assess, understand and respond to their priority needs more effectively. In turn, this will ensure that these groups can access humanitarian assistance and protection at key points along migratory routes, as well as access to more long-term solutions.

## Key activities:

- Provide technical support to the National Society on humanitarian needs and long-term durable solutions
- Provide technical guidance and resources for the National Society to establish safe and secure referral systems for migrants to access essential services
- Address specific needs to ensure dignity and promote empowerment, and promote access to essential services, including inclusion perspectives

- Advocate for access to shelter – specifically, safe accommodation for migrants and internally displaced persons
- Develop training for National Societies on migration and displacement-related issues, as well as tools, guidance and other documents to support the engagement of the National Society in the field of migration and displacement
- Ensure internally displaced persons and the affected populations of different ages, gender and circumstance are involved in the needs assessment and planning process – including representatives of host communities – ensuring that different needs, concerns and perspectives are represented
- Facilitate National Society participation in the Red Cross and Red Crescent Middle East & North Africa Migration Network (MENA Migration Network)
- Facilitate the exchange of information and good practice across the IFRC network

## Statistics

**More than one million internally displaced persons** have not yet found a sustainable path back home

## Values, power and inclusion

Iraq's long and tumultuous history of political unrest and waves of forced population movement have created a layered structure of displaced population groups across many communities. Particularly vulnerable groups include people without civil documentation, people with a perceived affiliation to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), female-headed households, women, children, older people, people who live with disabilities and survivors of gender-based violence.

During the pandemic, freedom of movement was restricted and access to legal and community-based support was impeded. There was an increase in psychological trauma, stress and anxiety among all groups. For people departing camps suddenly, and people with a perceived affiliation to ISIL, it is often difficult to reintegrate and find a safe, dignified life either in their areas of origin or elsewhere. Internally displaced persons and returnees living in critical shelter outside camps are often exposed to both physical and mental harm.

Gender-based violence is a key protection issue recognized by all humanitarian actors in Iraq, for both the Syrian and internally displaced persons humanitarian crises. Women are often unable to fully participate in civil life and face heightened risks of discrimination and

abuse. The humanitarian crisis sits within the wider context of existing patriarchal social structures and practices which include honour killings, child marriage, bridal exchange, restrictions on women's mobility in public spaces, two different forms of temporary marriage (among Muslim Shia populations) and, in certain areas of the country, low participation of women in labour and in secondary school enrolment.

The identification of protection risks and violations through timely, systematic and coordinated monitoring and analysis will allow preventative, responsive and remedial interventions to be put in place. These interventions include evidence-based advocacy, protection-specific service delivery, and community-based mobilization, mitigation and prevention activities that create a protection-conducive environment. Humanitarian partners working in Iraq are committed to principles of quality, inclusive programming and anchoring their response in protection issues.

## Main actions and areas of support

The IFRC network will support the Iraqi Red Crescent to create positive change in communities by encouraging wider understanding, ownership and concrete application of humanitarian values, especially among young people. It will also provide support to ensure the National Society is a safe, inclusive organization where dignity, access, participation and safety for people of all identities are held as core values.

### Key activities:

- Develop a pool of youth as agents of behavioural change peer educators
- Foster youth-led projects through the uniting power of football projects
- Carry out community engagement and accountability assessments with communities and ensure community engagement and accountability standard operating procedures are in place as part of institutionalization
- Ensure that all programmes and operations provide dignity, access, participation and safety for everyone involved, including vulnerable groups, and are designed with child safeguarding in mind
- Promote the systematic application of agreed minimum standards for protection, gender and inclusion in programmes and in emergencies, by targeting of vulnerable groups



- Scale up efforts to address sexual and gender-based violence throughout the work of the National Society, and establish and improve systems for recording and monitoring prevention and response activities
- Advocate for safeguarding within programmes which can strengthen child safeguarding practices and reduce the risk of harm towards children as outlined in the IFRC Child Safeguarding Policy
- Include child protection within programming by building awareness of key terms, global minimum standards, practical actions and tools
- Ensure that National Society staff complete online IFRC courses, providing volunteers, staff, partners, suppliers and contractors with an interactive overview of child protection and safeguarding within the IFRC

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## Enabling local actors

The Iraqi Red Crescent is committed to becoming a stronger organization institutionally. As part of this, it has carried out the self-assessment part of the Organisational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process twice; first in 2013, and again in 2021. This self-assessment captures the strengths and weaknesses of the whole National Society in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities.

The National Society in Iraq is also committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process and is currently in the orientation phase. This is a continuous and flexible process that allows National Societies to assess, measure and analyze the strengths and gaps in their preparedness and response mechanisms, and to address and improve them.

The IFRC and network partners will support the Iraqi Red Crescent in renewing its influence, innovation and digital transformation. They will support the National Society with financial management and resource mobilization. The IFRC will support the Iraqi Red Crescent towards becoming a trusted partner of choice by strengthening their development needs, prioritizing National Society volunteering and youth development, and by enhancing IFRC membership coordination as part of its work.

### Engaged

- Collaborate to produce a Humanitarian Diplomacy Briefing Note and to develop tailored key messages for humanitarian diplomacy
- Advocate to position the National Society at country level, including by using data collected through needs assessments
- Engage with authorities at a leadership level to amplify the National Society's voice and collaborate to build a network of local influencers

- Provide data and digital literacy training for National Society staff and volunteers
- Improve access to information and build the National Society's capacity for leveraging digitalization
- Ensure systematic collection and analysis of disaggregated data and use data collected through needs assessments and programming to advocate on behalf of the most vulnerable people

### Accountable

- Mobilize additional technical support and financial resources
- Improve the National Society's financial systems and provide technical advice on financial aspects
- Implement new tools to enhance financial reports, including support to meet commitments with stakeholders regarding quality, timely submission
- Familiarize National Society staff and volunteers with the code of conduct, and with policies around child safeguarding, protection, and prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse
- Advocate for the National Society to maximize partnerships with UN agencies and expand partnerships with multilaterals, leveraging the status of the IFRC
- Support the National Society in adopting and using a digital fundraising platform with support from the National Societies of Sweden and the Netherlands

### Trusted

- Develop a National Society development framework and plan
- Follow up on fundraising market study and draft fundraising strategy

- Support to improve processes and enhance accountability mechanisms, with a special emphasis on quality, impact and timely delivery
- Ensure capacity strengthening is included in emergency response and in procurement procedures, in compliance with IFRC standards
- Strengthen the National Society's disaster management systems and disaster response capacity at a national and branch level, as well as strengthening the National Society branch structures
- Establish an emergency operation centre and reporting cycle with governorate branches
- Enhance technical support provided by the National Society headquarters to local branches
- Strengthen volunteer management systems and equip youth with essential skills by making resources and guidance available to young National Society representatives
- Mobilize resources to implement the youth engagement strategy self-assessment
- Provide training to young volunteers and staff on leadership skills to take leading roles
- Enhance IFRC membership coordination by:
  - Coordinating and providing technical support in respective partners technical working groups with the National Society
  - Rolling out the IFRC Middle East and North Africa Member Framework and setting up membership coordination platforms
  - Expanding shared leadership opportunities with the IFRC membership
- Enhance Movement coordination and cooperation through:
  - Promoting joint statements and increasing coordination on communication, and cross-coordination between operations and communications
  - Exploring the possibility of having a Movement data and information sharing portal and of developing Movement contingency plans
  - Designing and rolling out training for National Society staff about Movement coordination
  - Continuing to engage in Movement coordination meetings and further strengthening Movement dialogue on policy issues

## THE IFRC NETWORK

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### The IFRC

**The IFRC**, through its country office, supports the Iraqi Red Crescent Society in its partners Task Force and other coordination mechanisms, as well as with strategy development and planning. It also promotes organizational development. The National Society undertook an Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) assessment in 2021, and this has informed the development of a new National Society development strategy. The IFRC also facilitates humanitarian diplomacy with UN agencies and embassies in Iraq, and accountability, helping with planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting to stakeholders.














In recent years, IFRC supported the Iraqi Red Crescent through a number of Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) and Emergency Appeal operations, in relation to population movement, disease outbreaks, earthquakes, floods, droughts, civil unrest and technological hazards. Since the beginning of the COVID-19

pandemic, the IFRC, through its global Appeal, has supported the National Society for its COVID-19 response, including immunization.

### IFRC membership coordination

The IFRC coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agreeing common priorities; co-developing common strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space, mobilizing funding and other resources; clarifying consistent public messaging; and monitoring progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need incorporate clarity of humanitarian action, development assistance, and the auxiliary role efforts to reinforce the role of National Societies in their respective countries.

## Participating National Society Support - Bilateral

Name of Partner NS	Funding Requirements	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Engaged	Accountable	Trusted
Danish Red Cross	CHF 1.69M								
German Red Cross	CHF 1.98M								
Norwegian Red Cross	CHF 1.10M								
Swedish Red Cross	CHF 1.15M								

### Total

5.91M

IFRC membership supports the Iraqi Red Crescent through the IFRC DREF, Emergency Appeals and country plans, as well as bilaterally. Participating National Societies providing technical and financial support to the National Society in Iraq include:

**Danish Red Cross** is assisting the Iraqi Red Crescent with psychosocial support, cash and voucher assistance, health, and finance and administrative development.

**German Red Cross** supports the National Society's cash activities to returnees in Ninawa in various ways, including multi-purpose cash assistance, and cash for work and shelter. It also supports the National Society in rehabilitating health and education facilities in Ninawa, as well as in volunteer management and insurance, and the management of resource mobilization.

**Norwegian Red Cross** supports the National Society in the improvement of access to primary health care services and water, sanitation and hygiene in schools in Basra, Salahuddin and Ninawa. It is also working with the Iraqi Red Crescent on improved access to primary

health care and pre-hospital services in Basra, Ninawa, Anbar and Baghdad, and is engaged in the Health Care in Danger initiative in Baghdad, Ninawa, Basra, Anbar and Wasit. The Norwegian Red Cross also provides financial development support to the National Society's headquarters.

**Swedish Red Cross** works with the National Society to improve the durability of water, sanitation and hygiene interventions and incorporate environmental aspects. It does this by combining humanitarian, emergency and recovery approaches. The Swedish Red Cross is also implementing a programme in partnership with the French Red Cross to strengthen the Iraqi Red Crescent local response capacity and community-based disaster risk management. Its core focus for capacity building is around systems for information management and planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting, water, sanitation and hygiene, community engagement and accountability, and protection, gender and inclusion. Restoring family links capacity building will also be incorporated in partnership with the ICRC.

## Movement coordination

The National Society chairs monthly coordination meetings for Movement partners, including the IFRC, ICRC and the partner National Societies present in Iraq. The Iraqi Red Crescent Task Force was originally established to develop the National Society's strategic plan and later to coordinate response operations. Since the end of the war in Mosul, the Task Force has been converted

to a Movement coordination forum. Additional technical groups are also planned for disaster management, health and National Society development. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

In Iraq, the ICRC helps displaced people, refugees and civilians in places affected by fighting during times of crisis. It improves access to clean water and health care, visits detainees and enables them to maintain contact with their families, and supports the authorities' efforts to clarify the fate of people missing from earlier conflicts. The ICRC also supports the National Society in its

development and operations, as a primary partner with a focus on the Safer Access approach. This approach promotes safer access to people affected by conflict and violence, while minimizing risks to staff and volunteers. The ICRC also continues to support the National Society in explosive remnants of war, relief stocks and other activities falling within its operational mandate.

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## Coordination with other actors

The Iraqi Red Crescent is a member of the National Disaster Response Committee chaired by the Government Department of Migration and Displacement and of the country's main emergency coordination mechanisms, including the National Operation Cell (NOC), Operations Room for Displaced People, Joint Coordination and Monitoring Centre (JCMC) and Joint Crisis Coordination Centre (JCC).

At the national and governorate level, the Iraqi Red Crescent coordinates its activities with the Prime Minister's office, local government and directorates in targeted governorates, and with the Ministries of Health and Environment, Education, Displaced and Migrants, and Reconstruction and Development. It also coordinates with other national and international humanitarian organizations.

The National Society also has strong relations with Iraqi ministries and educational institutions to support learning, developing staff capabilities and coordinating online and in-person trainings in the National Society headquarters.

The Iraqi Red Crescent and the IFRC actively engage in a number of Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) cluster meetings with other national and international humanitarian organizations, including in Erbil.

The Iraqi Red Crescent has also established partnerships with other key stakeholders, including the EU, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Development Programme. Through these organizations, it implements projects related to water and sanitation, awareness of environmental and mine risks, and the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Centre, which identifies risks and divides response mechanisms among the relevant ministries, organizations and institutions.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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