

MAAIQ002

# Iraq

Annual Report 2011

Picture size : 14 x 8 cm

**This report covers the  
period 01/01/11 to  
31/12/11**

*Iraqi RC volunteers setting up a camp  
supporting people displaced by floods*



## In brief

### Programme outcome

In line with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' (IFRC) Strategy 2020, the expected outcome of the IFRC in Iraq is to strengthen capacity of the Iraq Red Crescent to deliver services aimed at enhancing community resilience to disasters and public health emergencies. This includes protecting livelihoods and strengthening the capacity to recover from disasters and crises, enabling a healthy and safe living, promoting social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

This will be based on integrated planning, designing, packaging, marketing and implementation of Disaster Management, Shelter, CBHFA, Road safety, WatSan and strengthening the Institutional capacity of IRCS to improve programming and implementation under a comprehensive Recovery Programme and the IRCS Migration project. This strategic direction is part of the Better Programming Initiative (BPI), as required under the Framework agreement between the Federation and the Swedish Red Cross, signed by the Heads of the two institutions in July 2011.

## Programme(s) summary

In April 2011, the Iraqi Red Crescent Society (IRCS) provided relief and shelter to 1000 persons during the floods that hit several governorates in Iraq. The IRCS, through its wide network of volunteers across the country, conducted rapid assessments and provided relief assistance to the affected community within 24 hours. The Federation released CHF165,000 from the DREF to support the IRCS in this operation.



IRCS Volunteers delivering relief assistance to flood victims

The Society, with support from the Federation and Swedish Red Cross, received and provided food, non-food items and psychosocial support assistance to the Iraqi returnees whose request for asylum has been rejected in Sweden. The returnees programme dedicates its efforts to addressing and responding to the needs of the returnees and assisting them to cope with the challenges that they might be facing upon their return home and resuming their lives.

The IRCS, as all other institutions in Iraq, is in the process of recovering from over 10 years of war, internal conflicts and international sanctions. The International Federation support to the IRCS focuses on building the capacity of the society's leadership, staff and volunteers, establishment of systems, standardization of procedures, and guidelines, upgrading information communication equipment (ICT) and building strategic relief stocks in the various technical fields to ensure success in programme implementation.

In order to strengthen human resources and ensure sustainable long term development, the IRCS with support from the Federation, successfully delivered training courses in Project Management, Finance, Community Based health and First aid (CBHFA) ToT courses, Health Promotion and First Aid in 18 governorates in Iraq. Staff and volunteers have also participated in the training Regional Disaster Response teams organized by the Zone and held in Iran, Field school training held in Nepal; Gender mainstreaming, and Public Health Training held in Jordan. The training and coaching activities progressed successfully towards achieving the programme objectives.

The IRCS have computerised the human resources and finance system. This has improved financial monitoring and reporting. All finance staff have undergone training to operate the new programme. The exercise has already started yielding results that include improved financial management control systems, monitoring and reporting, contributing to an increased level of accountability to donors and beneficiaries.

The IRCS have updated their administration structure and staff job descriptions for all HQ and Field positions. All employees have received coaching and orientation on what is expected of them and how their performance will be evaluated. This process has assisted IRCS Governance and Management determine how critical each job is, how this particular job relates to others and identify the characteristics needed by a new employee filling the role.

The IRCS continues to support vulnerable communities that have for many years received a diverse range of services to alleviate suffering. The IRCS is committed to improving quality and accountability in humanitarian response. The Society fully subscribes to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief, Sphere minimum standards as well as Gender balancing in all its relief operation

### Financial situation

The total (2011) budget is CHF 1,932,003.37, of which CHF 1,857,868.00 (96% per cent) was covered during the reporting period (including opening balance). Overall expenditure during the reporting period was CHF 1,405,687.62(72.76% per cent) of the budget.

Click here to go directly to the financial report.

<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/Annual11/MAAIQ00211arf.pdf>

### No. of people reached

- Migration and returnees training: 10 staff members across the country.
- The total number of returnees who benefited directly from the Iraqi Returnees Programme in its current phase was (32 persons),
- A workshop on project planning and management was conducted in Erbil for 25 IRCS program management staff, reporting officers and 2 reporting officers from ICRC.
- Three departments (HR, Finance, and Logistic) are to be integrated with the finance system soft ware.
- CBHFA training of trainers: 25 staff members and volunteers across the county.
- School First Aid: 66,580 teaching staff and pupils.

### Partners

The Federation continue to work closely with IRCS in the implementation of all the planned activities. The Swedish Red Cross and the Swedish government have been valued supporters and partners in the operation in Iraq. Other partners are Japan Red Cross, International Committee of the Red Cross, DFID, UNHCR, UNOPS, OCHA and UNICEF

### Context

Although Iraq has officially passed off the state of war, the country is still suffering from the aftermath and persistent problems of instability. The political upheaval in the country has been quite an influential factor that continues to directly affect the lives of the most vulnerable communities. While violence affects the lives of millions of ordinary people inside Iraq, another kind of crisis, also due to the impact of war, has been slowly unfolding. Up to eight million people are now in need of emergency assistance. This figure includes:

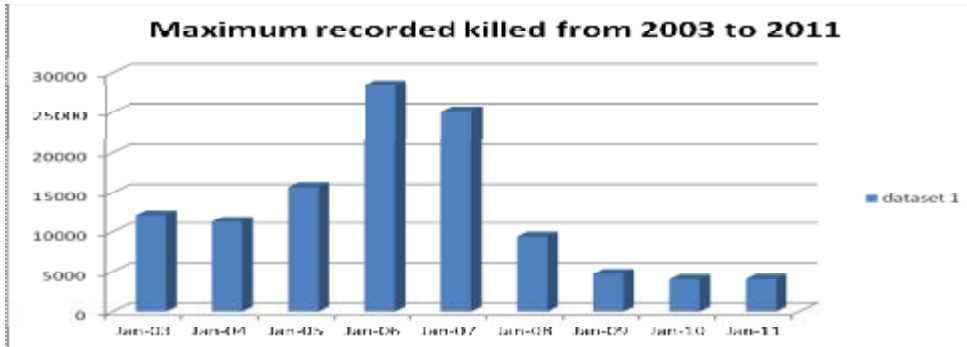
- four million people who are 'food-insecure and in dire need of different types of humanitarian assistance'
- more than two million displaced people inside Iraq
- Over two million Iraqis in neighbouring countries, mainly Syria and Jordan, as well as in Europe and North America making this the fastest growing refugee crisis in the world.

Iraqis are suffering from a growing lack of food, shelter, water and sanitation, health care, education, and unemployment. Of the four million Iraqis who are dependent on food assistance, only 60 per cent currently

have access to rations through the government-run Public Distribution System (PDS), down from 96 per cent in 2004.

Forty-three per cent of Iraqis suffer from ‘absolute poverty’. According to some estimates, over half the population are now without work. Children are hit the hardest by the decline in living standards. Child malnutrition rates have risen from 19 per cent before the US-led invasion in 2003 to 28 per cent now.

The ‘brain drain’ that Iraq is experiencing is further stretching already inadequate public services, as thousands of medical staff, teachers, and others have left the country. Since 2003, 94 aid workers have been killed, 248 injured, 24 arrested or detained and 89 kidnapped or abducted..



Sources: Iraq Body Count 2011

Iraq Body Count (IBC) recorded 4,087 civilian deaths from violence in 2011. Evidence of these deaths was extracted from some 6,828 distinct reports collected from over 90 sources covering 1,884 incidents, each of which is openly listed on the IBC website. This brings the total number of deaths in the IBC database to 114,949. These numbers represent a verifiable documentary record of deaths, and are not estimates. A survey published in The Lancet in 2006 estimated that violence may have led to 655,000 direct and indirect deaths since 2003.

**Progress towards Outcomes**

The objective of addressing the needs of the returnees has been accomplished. Providing the returnees with the much needed assistance materials has left a positive effect on the returning families with an increasing sense of hope and security. The bond that the Iraqi Returnees Programme is creating with the sensitive and reluctant returnees will enhance rapid integration within the Iraqi society.



*Monitoring visits to the returnees*

Strategy 2020 strategic aim 1: Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crisis  
**Programme purpose**

The Iraq Red Crescent Society is assisted in building-up robust essential preparedness, response, and recovery capacities which integrate risk reduction measures and enable them to deal predictably and effectively with anticipated disasters and crises.

- **Component outcome 1: Disaster Risk Reduction.**

The Federation will support the IRCS in its effort to contribute to the process of disaster risk reduction within the broad context of sustainable development in line with Strategy 2020. Hazards and vulnerabilities, as well as the capacities of the community, have been assessed countrywide, a prerequisite to an effective disaster preparedness, response and recovery.

- **Component outcome 2: Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels of the IRCS.**
- Improved capacity of skilled human resources, financial and material capacity for effective disaster management; increasing staff capacity to develop, manage and report on programmes and projects.
- **Component outcome 3: European Red Cross Return Initiative (ERCRI).**
- This initiative aims to support Iraqi returnees to return in safety with an appropriate level of assistance and reintegration into society

### Achievements

The Federation is working together with the IRCS on a disaster management strategy, coaching them on the process of producing a national disaster management plan and a new structure that will help the society deliver quality humanitarian services

The IRCS provided relief assistance to 1000 families with relief supplies and shelter materials after the floods that affected areas in northern Iraq. The relief assistance composed of 1000 food parcels, 1000 blankets, 500 Hygiene kits, 100 First aid kits, 600 Water jerry cans, 20 Water Tanks and 150 Tents. The Federation released CHF 165,000 from DREF to support the Intervention. A total 825 kerosene heaters distributed to vulnerable communities in Baghdad, during the onset of the cold winter season.



Food parcels delivered to the families affected by floods

Thirty two returnees were received at the airport, psychosocial support provided to them upon arrival and needs assessments were carried out. Assistance materials were provided to the returnees to assist them in settling back in Iraq. Seven monitoring visits were carried out in Baghdad, Erbil, Suleimaniya and Najaf. In three cases, the programme supported the returnees to access medical care, as well as supply of vital medicines for chronic diseases. The programme has also succeeded in providing accommodation to one of the most vulnerable returnees.

**Constraints or Challenges**

The main constraint is related to lack of funding, as only few partners are engaged with the IRCS despite the many challenges the Society has to deal with in difficult circumstances

**Strategy 2020 strategic aim 2: Enable healthy and safe living.**

The health and care services of the Iraq Red Crescent Society have been primarily focusing on the promotion and training of first aid and health education. To date, the scope of activities in first aid, CBHFA, general health education on prevention of common diseases and injuries, HIV/AIDS, psych-social support, water and sanitation and health in emergencies has substantially increased.

These programme activities run by the National Society complement the Iraqi government’s health programmes. Due to poor access, weakness and quality of the health service in Iraq, First Aid skills is a vital life saving skill considering the current level of sectarian violence.



IRCS ensure gender balance in all its activities including First Aid Course

**Health and Care**

**a) The purpose and components of the programme**

Ensure that National Society is assisted and guided to maintain a wide and effective base of health care and first aid build-up robust essential preparedness, response, and recovery capacities that can also integrate risk reduction measures and enable them to deal predictably and effectively with anticipated disasters and crises.

**Programme component**

**Component outcome 1: Community Based Health and First Aid.**

Contribution to the development of healthy communities (with capacities to cope with health and disaster challenges) through community based integrated health and first aid activities.

**Component outcome 2: School First Aid with extended thematic focus on hygiene promotion, transmittable diseases and healthy lifestyles.**

Essential basic first aid knowledge to primary, intermediary and secondary school students, up to 17 years of age, as well as teachers has been disseminated.

**Achievements**

- In the year under review, 3329 courses in FA and health promotion were conducted in schools that were previously selected in coordination with the 18 governorates and Ministry of Education. A total number of 66,850 students and teachers were trained.
- In 2011, the IRCS conducted 67 psychological support lectures for children, youth, women, the elderly people, and people with disability. A total of 33, 060 persons benefited from the lectures.
- More than 190 awareness lectures were delivered, the lectures focus on communicable diseases such as

hepatitis, aids, TB and flu and teaching methods of early detection of breast cancer. In addition to awareness lectures on public health, hygiene and the danger of drugs and smoking, 18,596 beneficiaries received publications on health awareness.

- FA kits with hygiene have been procured and received(6850).
- Wall pharmacies for the schools have been procured and received(500)
- Water filters for the schools have been procured and received(240)

Table 1 Summary of the Health Programme Achievements

Activity	No. Workshop	No of Participants	Quantity	Target
Training of Trainers CBHFA	1	25		Staff and volunteers
School First Aid program	3329	66,850		Students and teachers
Psychological support Workshops	67	33060		Children, Youth, Women, the elderly, and people with disability
Disease Prevention	192	18596		Vulnerable communities
Distribution bags of first aid			6850 kits	3350Schools
School Pharmacy			500 cabinets	Schools
Water Filters			240 Pieces	School
<b>Total</b>	3589	118,531	7590	

**Constraints or Challenges**

Difficulties in reaching some governorates due to sectarian violence.

**Outcome(s)**

**Strategy 2020 Enabling action 1: Build strong National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

Building the capacities of the National Society is one of the key aspects of the International Federation’s support towards creating a strong and sustainable organization able to provide effective services to the vulnerable nationwide. This focuses on improving the Society’s capacity to deliver effective and efficient humanitarian service. These include improving management of human resources, programmes and financial management through strengthening programme planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, financial control systems, staff and volunteers management as well as developing a long term strategic plan.



Reporting and Project Planning Workshop 19-23 Dec. 2011 Erbil

**Organisational Development/Capacity Building**

**a) The purpose and components of the programme**

**Programme purpose**

Support the National Society's organizational development process to create a strong and sustainable organization able to provide effective services to the vulnerable nationwide.

**Programme component****Component outcome 1: Roles and responsibilities of governance and management**

Support the Red Crescent Society's headquarters to disseminate the roles and responsibilities of governance and management. Support the society's leadership in the effort to develop a comprehensive strategy in line with the Society's priorities and Strategy 2020 of the International Federation.

**Component outcome 2: National Society leadership and management development.**

Support the National Society governance and management to strengthen the ability to effectively lead the organization and its service delivery, thereby enabling the establishment of a sustainable organization. Support the building of a strong society with sustainable systems, procedures and staff with desired level of managerial competencies.

**Component outcome 3: Volunteering development.**

Support the National Society with the tools and resources to mobilize and maintain networks of volunteers.

**Component outcome 4: Youth development.**

Support the National Society to strengthen the involvement of youth in the community.

**Component outcome 5: Branch development**

Support the development of nationwide coverage of grassroots units and services.

**Component outcome 6: Cooperation: Movement cooperation and operational alliance.**

Support the IRCS' organizational development efforts through effective coordination within the International Federation and outside.

**Component outcome 7: A strong National Society with sustainable systems, procedures and staff with desired level of managerial competencies**

The Federation and the IRCS have been planning to conduct NS self - assessment and base-line survey to identify the Iraq Red Crescent Society's real capacities, human resources preparedness and assets. Effective and transparent human resources management will be supported and become fully computerised. Job descriptions for all staff and volunteers will be in place at the headquarters and branches by the end of 2011.

Proper and effective financial procedures and guidelines will be developed for the headquarters and 18 branches through implementing computer based financial management systems. Well functioning and compatible financial and accounting system will be in place within the finance department by the end of 2011. The financial management procedures and guidelines will be approved by the National Society auditors. The financial reporting system is to be developed based on the Federation's standards

**Achievements**

The IRCS with support from the Federation and ICRC have started the process of developing a long term strategic plan that will outline the Society's roadmap for building a stronger, dynamic, and innovative NS systems articulated in a long term strategies/ management master plan in line with strategy 2020. During a Coordination meeting between IRCS and Federation in October 2011, a taskforce composed of staff from IRCS, Federation and ICRC was formed to coordinate the exercise. The OD, DM and Health team held departmental meeting to lay the foundation for the main exercise that will commence in 2012.

In 2011, the Iraqi Red Crescent Society in coordination with the Ministry of Planning, Al-Nahreen University and the Federation organised Project Management and report writing Training Workshops involving 46 RCS

program management staff , programme coordinators, reporting officers at both the HQs & branches level, as well as staff and volunteers. The main aim of the Reporting and Project Planning Workshop is to improve the quality of project planning and regular reporting of the program's activities at both the HQs & branches level to increase effectiveness and efficiency of the IRCS intervention

On-going efforts are being made to ensure gender is mainstreamed in all IRCS, programmes. Three IRCS board members have received training on gender and are mandated to ensure each programmes comply with this policy.

The IRCS have completed the first phase of the computerization of its human resources and finance system. This has highly improved financial monitoring and reporting. All finance staff have undergone training to operate the new programme. The Licence Agreement to Microsoft has been paid by the Federation and ICRC.

IRCS with support from the Federation held partnership meeting on five and six Dec. 2011 in Amman, Jordan. The first phase of the meeting focused on-going partnership activities between IRCS, Swedish Red Cross and Federation as well as the new SRCS International Strategy. The second phase was information sharing and included Norwegian, German Red Cross and ICRC. The IRCS presented its strategic priorities for 2012-2015.

IRCS's have updated their administration structure and staff job descriptions for all HQ and Field positions. All employees have received coaching on what is expected of them and how their performance will be evaluated. This process has assisted IRCS Governance and Management determine how critical each job is, how this particular job relates to others and identify the characteristics needed by a new employee filling the role.

#### The IRCS Youth and Volunteers programme

- In 2011, the IRCS conducted a leadership training courses for the 30 Youth Leaders of branches in Baghdad and Dhuk governorate
- A three day youth a camp for 150 volunteers was held in Sulimania governorate.
- In order to promote peaceful coexistence, a workshop involving 25 youth volunteers was conducted by the IRCS
- To celebrate the Global day of Anti-Violence against Women, 20 women volunteers were honoured by the IRCS for their efforts to highlight the challenges faced by women in Iraq
- As part of IRCS friends 's programme , the Society organised a fun day that included drawing and other activities for children in Diyala branch



The IRCS promotes youth activities in the different areas of focus

## Constraints or Challenges

It is important to be realistic about the administrative and managerial capacity of the Iraq Red crescent to meet these needs even if finance is available. The typical post-conflict National Societies inherits a history in which it has never managed to build an effective Management system even prior to the civil war. The legacy of war has made this task even harder.

## Working in partnership

- The Iraq Red Crescent continued to work through partnerships, networking and collaboration with relevant organizations in the humanitarian and development sphere, resulting in improved preparedness and response in the region and at national level. National Society teams carried out joint operations and missions with other partners.
- The IRCS, ICRC and the Federation maintain regular communication and coordination. Meetings are held at both Programme and strategic level.
- ICRC facilitates all visits of the Federation Representative in Iraq. A more formal MoU will be signed to strengthen this cooperation
- The regular meetings have helped to contribute to the modernisation process and a number of issues linked to organizational development and capacity building of the National Society have been agreed on.
- The IFRC representation in Iraq has restarted the process of acquiring a status agreement for the delegation in order to have a stronger presence in Iraq and increasing coordination and cooperation with other IRCS partners.

## Contributing to longer-term impact

- Throughout the cooperation between the Federation and the IRCS, a transparent process of communication has been maintained based on IFRC , principles and standards.
- Reports are shared and exchanged with an aim of making the best use of the lessons learned for future enhancement of delivery of services to the communities.
- IRCS continued to be committed to reducing the risk and impact of disasters through community preparedness, increasing community access to adequate and nutritious food, reducing deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases in communities, as well as increasing the capacity to implement disaster preparedness, response and recovery in an integrated approach
- Technical and resource mobilisation support continued to be provided to IRCS to align its programmes with the IFRC Strategy 2020, while taking into account emerging issues such as climate change and migration. This has contributed to strengthened disaster preparedness and response, community based health as well as capacity development for the IRCS and the communities.
- The integrated approach promoted by the Federation also enhances the quality of service delivery, which was modelled to ensure holistic support to vulnerable communities.
- Further support will be provided to build NS capacities for national fundraising and diversification of resource mobilization efforts beyond the traditional Partner National Societies
- Gender balance has been taken into consideration to ensure equity and diversity.
- The Iraqi returnees programme resulted in an increased awareness of the needs and constraints involved, and generated great interest in learning more about counselling methods relevant to the work with the returnees. The National Society's ability to respond to future similar cases and programmes has been built further through holding trainings, providing significant opportunities for discussions and exchange of experience,.
- The documentation capacity of the IRCSs is gradually becoming more systematic and providing a strong base for shared knowledge and expertise.

## Looking ahead

- Development of a comprehensive recovery programme which covers the related areas of DM, shelter, CBHFA, road safety, WatSan and IRCS' institutional capacity strengthening
- Development of IRCS Disaster Management Master Plan (DMMP) and Health and Social Services Master Plan (HSSMP) that provides the framework and road map for the DM and Health programme development and implementation. The DMMP and HSSMP aim at ensuring the National Society growth is planned, and systems developed to enhance performance and accountability in a manner that meets the current and future challenges in Iraq.

## How we work

All IFRC 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 the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

[www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)  
Saving lives, changing minds.



The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of nonviolence and peace.

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