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Operation Update No: 1

Iraq: Tayaran Square Explosions

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF Operation n° MDRIQ011	GLIDE n° OT-2021-000010-IRQ
Operation update n° 1; 19 April 2021	Timeframe covered by this update: 2 months
Operation start date: 5 February 2021	Operation timeframe: 4 months / 30 June 2021
Funding requirements (CHF): CHF 114,714	DREF amount initially allocated: CHF 114,714
N° of people being assisted: 1,452 (242 families)	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Local government authorities, health department and local police department.	

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

A double suicide bombing incident took place on Thursday 21, January 2021, in a crowded market at Tayaran Square, central Baghdad, that killed 33 people and wounded 99 according to the Directorate of Terror's Victims and Directorate of Health in Baghdad.

The injured were transferred to Al-Kindi Hospital, Sheikh Zayed Hospital, and the Neurological Wholesale Hospital. More people were affected indirectly through the disruption of their livelihood. These were daily workers, shoppers and traders of 2nd hand used clothes and other stocks. This was the biggest suicide attack in Baghdad in the last three years.



Figure 1: A view of Tayaran Square Explosions (Photo: IRCS)

Summary of current response

Overview of Host National Society

On hearing of the explosion and mass casualties, Iraqi Red Crescent Society took immediate action to provide life-saving care. The IRCS has conducted rapid assessment to set the plan of emergency intervention, whether at the level of health and psychosocial support, to decrease the impact that resulted from this explosion, as well as in determining the intervention for saving the livelihood of the families of injured and deceased.

IRCS senior management formed a committee of three staff members at national Headquarters to further investigate with the government authorities and follow up for necessary information. This committee is responsible to monitor closely the implementation of DREF operation activities.

following the establishment of the committee, a visit to Directorate of Terror's Victims and Directorate of Health in Baghdad was organized and information on affected people was gathered. To further verify the affected families, the IRCS branch staff conducted visits to 242 families and support will be provided to those affected families in the coming weeks through cash transfer. IRCS has mobilized the trained volunteers and staff to providing psychosocial support to

the injured and to the families who lost their members through psychosocial support and first aid services for injured through home visits.

The IRCS deployed its Emergency Medical Teams at the site of the explosion and has set up triage and first aid stations to ensure that people with non-critical injuries can be treated and comforted while the worst-affected survivors are being taken to hospital by the MOH, and civil defence ambulances. The IRCS has deployed Emergency Medical Teams and its fleet of seven (7) ambulances to the site of the explosion, where nine (9) staff and seven (7) trained volunteers were engaged for response activities, to provide and potential support to Ministry of Health in transferring the injured and providing first aid at triage stations. The government authorities immediately transported the affected people to hospital and the First Aid support was provided in the Al-Kindi Hospital, Sheikh Zayed Hospital, and the Neurological Wholesale Hospital. IRCS national headquarters engaged its local branches and mobilized the staff and volunteers to reach out the affected families based on the list provided by relevant government authorities in different governorates.

Based on the experience with previous operations, the IRCS has decided to support the affected families with cash assistance. CVA has been part of humanitarian response and early recovery in Iraq since 2014 through IRCS targeting displacements, in partnership with other Movement partners IRCS has established system to implement cash intervention for this response.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

IRCS Headquarters maintains daily communication with the IFRC delegation in Baghdad and weekly coordination meetings with Movement partners in-country are taking place to discuss and plan activities that will improve the collective capacity and impact. The Movement partners present in Iraq include ICRC, German, Norwegian, Danish and Swedish Red Cross-National Societies. Since the explosion occurred, the IFRC delegation in Iraq has contacted the leadership and technical departments of the IRCS and the IFRC regional office to share information of operation activities and beneficiaries' verification process, as well as to provide technical support to the DREF operation. ICRC is supporting this operation to build on the initial response and to strengthen the capacity of IRCS on First Aid, in response to the potential violence that may accompany the election process.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

Local authorities dispatched police forces, army, and rescue teams to the location. Ministry of Health and Civil defense supported in evacuation and transport to hospitals. According to the IRCS team's initial observation and through the assessment that has been carried out, no such support has been extended by any government authority to the victims' families.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Needs analysis

Following the Tayaran Square attack in central Baghdad, IRCS carried out the rapid assessment to identify the needs of affected families. It was identified that there is a need to provide psychological support and first aid to the people who were directly affected by the incident especially the survivors, witnesses and those families who have lost their family members. Up to 33 families have lost their family members and all of them are breadwinners for their families. More than 110 people are also injured, and around 100 families' livelihood have different degrees of disruption. Some of them will not be able to go to work due to injuries, and some lost their physical ability to work. There are lot of uncertainty, tension, and panic among people, due to ongoing threats of further explosions, ongoing security checking across the central Baghdad, suspicion about terrorists and state of emergency issued.

IRCS senior management formed the committee of three members persons at national Headquarters to coordinate with the government authorities and directorates for information on the affected people by Tayaran explosions. This committee is also responsible to monitor the operation activities at Baghdad and six (6) other governorates. The IRCS committee has organized the visit to Directorate of Terror's Victims and Directorate of Health in Baghdad. The directorates provided the complete list of affected people to IRCS representatives. The victims are from six (6) governorates of origin (Dohuk, Muthana, Dialya, Basra, Wassit & Sulaymaniyah). IRCS Headquarters mobilized its branch staff and volunteers in respective governorates to conduct visits and verify information on the affected families-including the verification of deceased families, wounded persons and those with the direct disruption of their livelihoods.

The IRCS branch teams visited to the affected families to better understand their urgent needs. According to the affected family members, food is the immediate need for the family, as they have lost their livelihoods and many of breadwinners who got seriously injured in the blasts and would not be able to earn for their families. These families are facing money shortage and they requested cash, food, and healthcare assistance. Those families have now lost their only source of daily income.

Iraq has experienced multiple crises in the last years because of consecutive disasters that aggravated the humanitarian needs in the country. The protracted humanitarian crisis in Iraq remains one of the largest and most volatile in the world. The COVID-19 outbreak hit a country already facing a humanitarian crisis, further deepening vulnerabilities, and disrupting on-going efforts to deliver aid to the most vulnerable people in acute need of humanitarian assistance. The

country was just recovering from the massive conflict that resulted in population movement in 2014 and the situation was compounded in 2020 by the COVID-19 pandemic. These circumstances have highly impacted livelihoods and exacerbated food insecurity. Current high security alerts and potential escalation of demonstrations over the ever-rising hardship, in addition to possible violence to accompany the election process, may result in additional challenges to those who survive on daily irregular income. After one year with COVID-19, with the passage of time and current economic deterioration, many families are with limited and low income in the country. These multiple crises increase the number of poor and needy families. Many of the families were dependent on the Bab Al-Sharqi area / Al-Tayaran Square market and people are seeking their daily labor work and livelihoods earning.

Operation Risk Assessment

IRCS security team is monitoring the security situation in the country. Looking into the extreme violence situation, that requires implementation of firmed security measures for IRCS to avoid any circumstances for accessibility to the affected people. In response to the recent violence, the IRCS continue to apply operational safety and security measures during its operations to ensure that it maintains access to the affected population, as far as possible, without undue risk to its personnel. Due to the nature of the operating environment, the IRCS is applying all necessary measures to ensure the safety and security of staff and volunteers engaged in this operation and it will be prioritized. IRCS will continue to monitor the security situation and liaise closely with the security institutions to reduce the risk in the field.

The current DREF operation and its operational strategy aligned with the IFRC global emergency appeal, which supports National Societies to deliver assistance and support affected communities or the communities at risk of being affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. IRCS more than ever, is closely working with local authorities to jointly find the best approach to ensure humanitarian assistance is safely delivered to the affected populations. The planned DREF activities are following the Ministry of Health and World Health Organization (WHO) regulations on hygiene and Social Distancing especially during visits to the markets and houses for collecting the information of affected people. IRCS will incorporate hygiene and health promotion activities in this operation in line with the IRCS COVID-19 action plan, to assure government measures are complied with.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Proposed strategy

Overall Operational objective:

This operation aims at assisting at least 32 families of deceased, 110 families of wounded and 100 families indirectly affected by the explosions through disruption of their livelihoods and means of income. The operation will be implemented within four-month period. The primary focus of this operation will be:

The unconditional/multipurpose cash assistance will be provided to the targeted families as per the following:

- 32 families of deceased will receive a one shot of 500 USD. With loss of breadwinner, each family in this category will be supported for a period of at least three months.
- 110 families of wounded will receive a one shot of 300 USD. Each family in this category will require assistance for basic needs and healthcare for two months before their injuries are fully recovered and they are able to resume their income generation.
- 100 families indirectly affected by the explosion through disruption of their livelihoods will receive a one shot of 100 USD.

IRCS response aims at enhancing the overall wellbeing of the affected families through a comprehensive mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and cash voucher assistance (CVA) response that is linked to a medium to long-term program focused on recovery and rehabilitation. IRCS approach includes awareness, livelihood, disability support and social cohesion under the MHPSS umbrella, considering them as vital components for enhancing resilience of the target families.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN



Livelihoods and basic needs

People reached: 1,452

Male: 668

Female: 784

Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people targeted/reached families with adequate cash assistance	242	242

Output 1.5: Households are provided with unconditional/multipurpose cash grants to address their basic needs

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of families of deceased receiving unconditional/multipurpose cash assistance	32	0
# of wounded families receiving unconditional/multipurpose cash assistance	110	0
# of indirect affected families receiving unconditional/multipurpose cash assistance	100	0

Progress towards outcomes

Cash assistance is one of the main components to support the affected people under this operation, with three types of cash assistance in place.

- 32 families of deceased will receive a one shot of 500 USD.
- 110 families of wounded will receive a one shot of 300 USD.
- 100 families indirectly affected by the explosion through disruption of their livelihoods will receive a one shot of 100 USD.

To assist the implementation process, cash working committee was established at the headquarters with the aim to verifying the data received from the Directorate of Terror's Victims and Directorate of Health, Baghdad in consultation with the local branches. IRCS validated all 242 families by engaging its branches staff and volunteers in different governorates. These lists were shared by the HQ with the branches for better implementation of this operation. Furthermore, IRCS nominated the CVA focal person to orient the local branches for cash disbursement process and to assist with the operation activities. Cash interventions are not new to the Iraqi context in humanitarian response. IRCS has also experience in cash implementation, with the support of in-country present partner national societies (PNS).

Verified households for the cash assistance are those who have lost family member(s) and households with injured member(s) during the Tayaran square explosions. Cash will be distributed directly to the individuals while the National Society branches will maintain the records for each household and a copy-set will be dispatched to the HQ.



Figure 2: IRCS volunteers collecting information on affected people from local markets (Photo: IRCS)

IRCS is a member of the country cash working group for coordination of cash interventions with other humanitarian actors. Cash transfers in Iraq are a well-established transfer modality for the delivery of humanitarian aid with experienced humanitarian actors with the good policy environment. Under this operation, multipurpose cash grants will be distributed to 242 families affected by the explosions in Tayaran Square in central Baghdad for basic needs and restoring their livelihoods.



Health

People reached: 1,452

Male: 668

Female: 784

Outcome 1: The immediate risks to the health of the affected populations are reduced through improved access to medical treatment

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with first aid services to reduce the health risks	80	42

Output 2.1: Improved access to health care and emergency health care for the targeted population and communities.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of affected people receiving first aid	80	42

After the explosion occurred in Al-Tayaran Square, the wounded suffered from the shock of the explosion and they need to be visited home to provide primary health care to the wounded. The IRCS health department carried out 42 home visits and first aiders provided the psychological support to the families of the deceased and the wounded to reduce the impact of trauma. During the home visits 23 wounded people are provided with the first aid services and changing wound dressings, those who needed home follow-up.



Figure 3: IRCS volunteers visit to affected families for beneficiaries' verification in different governorates (Photo: IRCS)

Outcome 6: The psychosocial impacts of the emergency are lessened

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with psychosocial support	1,452	0

Output 6.1: Psychosocial support provided to the target population as well as to RCRC volunteers and staff

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached through PSS activities	1,452	0

Psychosocial component of the operation includes interventions representing first aid, mental health, and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to the affected families. The affected people are not located in the same area where the incident took place in central Baghdad, most of the affected people have their origins in different governorates. The key challenge in the operation is to reach out to those families and to verify the affected ones in the targeted governorates – based on the list provided by Directorate of Terror's Victims and Directorate of Health, Baghdad. Therefore, the volunteers and staff need to spend additional time with each family and individual than they would spend in a usual post disaster for PSS activity, and the interventions are more household focused.

Strengthen National Society

S1.1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of IRCS branches that are well functioning (for the operation)	1	1

S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of insured volunteers	100	100

Progress towards outcomes

IRCS has a strong network in the country with all 18 active branches, which are well capable in providing relief in times of emergencies. Number of staff and volunteers are trained in disaster response, specialized in health, PSS and hygiene promotion. These members are well-trained on life saving techniques to assist rescue operations in times of need. The IRCS is implementing this operation through its Baghdad branch, supported by the national headquarters and national response team (NRT). They are directly supporting the DREF operation activities through 100 insured volunteers. Furthermore, implementation is supported by both IRCS HQ and IFRC delegation in Iraq.

Due to the nature of the operating environment, the IRCS is following all necessary measures to ensure the safety and security of staff and volunteers, engaged for this operation. IRCS security unit is closely monitoring the security situation and liaise closely with the security institutions to reduce the risk in the field.

International Disaster Response

S2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured

Indicators:	Target	Actual
IFRC support to launch a DREF to raise financial and human resources	Yes	Yes
Coordination tools and mechanisms are in use for the operation - RDRT	Yes	-
% ratio of people reached by the IFRC disaster response operations to the people affected by these emergencies	100%	-

S2.1.1: Effective response preparedness and NS surge capacity mechanism is maintained

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of surge deployments in support of the operation	1	-

Progress towards outcomes

IFRC delegation in Iraq is providing support to IRCS for this operation. The Disaster Risk Management (DRM) delegate with the support of MENA region is in regular coordination with the National Society and provides technical support and backstopping for financial processes, implementation of cash voucher assistance (CVA) interventions and PSS activities with IRCS technical teams.

Regular meetings are taking place with the National Society to discuss progress and challenges faced by the operation. Appropriate mitigation actions are identified and carried out to address challenges if any, as best as possible.

Influence others as leading strategic partner

Outcome S3.1: The IFRC secretariat, together with National Societies uses their unique position to influence decisions at local, national and international levels that affect the most vulnerable.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
IFRC and NS are visible, trusted and effective advocates on humanitarian issues	Yes	Yes

Output S3.1.2: IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluation that informs advocacy, resource mobilization and programming.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of lessons learned workshop conducted	1	-

Progress towards outcomes

From the time of the attack, IRCS has engaged its team for first aid response and activated its Baghdad branch to carry out the rapid assessments and information collection with the relevant departments. IRCS has collected the first-hand information and mobilised its team to further verify with the affected families in different governorates.

At the end of operation, one-day lesson learnt workshop will be conducted in Baghdad with all the concerned staff and volunteers. The workshop will focus to share their perspectives in terms of what worked well and things that could have been done better. The whole process of the operation from the start to the end and at all levels to overview in order to identify the gaps in preparedness, coordination, planning and implementation in order to highlight the areas that need improvement. These findings will be useful as a guide that may inform IRCS in further strengthening coordination by establishing better guidelines, priorities and plans, in implementation of ongoing or future operations. This would also further strengthen IRCS emergency response capacity in future operations and will be the steppingstone for the revision of IRCS capabilities of rapid response in the humanitarian context. This revision will be addressed with the technical support of IFRC and all other movement partners. This may further help to IRCS for cash voucher assistance (CVA) guidelines and SOP for future interventions including effectiveness of tools in place in the IRCS.

D. Financial Report

CHF 114,714 has been allocated for IRCS to respond to the immediate needs of 1,452 people (242 families) in different governorates (Dohuk, Muthana, DIALYA, Basra, Wassit & Sulaymaniyah) affected by Tayaran Square Explosions, Central Baghdad. The financial report is found below.

DREF Operation

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2021/2	Operation	MDRIQ011
Budget Timeframe	2021/2-6	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 16/Apr/2021

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRIQ011 - Iraq - Tayaran Square Explosions

Operating Timeframe: 04 Feb 2021 to 30 Jun 2021

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	114,714
DREF Allocations	114,714
Expenditure	0
Closing Balance	114,714

II. Expenditure by area of focus / strategies for implementation

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction			0
AOF2 - Shelter			0
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	57,786		57,786
AOF4 - Health	42,155		42,155
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene			0
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion			0
AOF7 - Migration			0
Area of focus Total	99,941		99,941
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies			0
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management	4,737		4,737
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners	2,842		2,842
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC	7,195		7,195
Strategy for implementation Total	14,773		14,773
Grand Total	114,714		114,714

DREF Operation

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2021/2	Operation	MDRIQ011
Budget Timeframe	2021/2-6	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 16/Apr/2021

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRIQ011 - Iraq - Tayaran Square Explosions

Operating Timeframe: 04 Feb 2021 to 30 Jun 2021

III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	85,391		85,391
Medical & First Aid	32,911		32,911
Cash Disbursement	52,480		52,480
Workshops & Training	7,561		7,561
Workshops & Training	7,561		7,561
General Expenditure	14,761		14,761
Travel	6,226		6,226
Office Costs	6,756		6,756
Financial Charges	1,779		1,779
Indirect Costs	7,001		7,001
Programme & Services Support Recover	7,001		7,001
Grand Total	114,714		114,714



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29 January 2021
MDRIQ011
OT-2021-000010-IRQ

Iraq - Tayaran Square Explosions Disaster Relief Emergency Funds



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.

0 0.0007 0.0014 0.0021 0.0028 km



Reference documents



Click here for:

- [Previous Appeals and updates](#)
- [Emergency Plan of Action \(EPoA\)](#)

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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 Humanitarian 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.

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



Save lives.
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote social inclusion
and a culture of
non-violence and peace.