

Operation Update No: 2

Iraq: Tayaran Square Explosions

DREF Operation n° MDRIQ011	GLIDE n° OT-2021-000010-IRQ
Operation update n° 2; 01 July 2021	Timeframe covered by this update: 5 February to 30 June 2021
Operation start date: 5 February 2021	Operation timeframe: 6 months (extended for additional 2 months) ending 31 August 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.	

Summary of the operation update:

This operation update informs on the extension of the implementation timeframe until 31 August 2021 as a result of the following factors:

- Following the incident, the IRCS mobilized its staff and volunteers for response and started a collaboration with the relevant governmental authorities to collect validated information on the affected people. Because of the shifting of dead bodies and injured people to their hometowns, the operation activities were scattered across six governorates. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Iraqi government authorities have restricted movement and imposed curfews in governorates, which has been exacerbated by the country's deteriorating security situation. The DREF activities were hampered by the country's complex situation and needed time to normalize and implement.
- Since mid-May 2021, the Iraqi government has been more flexible with the curfew and has lifted the lockdown limitations inside the country — inter and intra governorate travel strictly adhere to SOP. IRCS teams can easily go to governorate cities to organize PSS activities.
- The mental health of huge sectors of the population, particularly women and children, is being jeopardized by the complicated humanitarian situation, which includes exposure to violence, loss of many lives, persistent stress, and a lack of stability. People's vulnerability has increased as a result of deteriorating basic services, loss of livelihoods, and high inflation. While the situation varies across the country, the affected population is also confronted with escalating violence and a security crisis, all of which contribute to an emergency that is spiraling out of control.

The overall operation budget remains the same.

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

On January 21, two explosions occurred in Tayaran Square in central Baghdad's Bab al-Shaqi neighborhood. At least 33 people have been killed and 100 have been injured in these attacks. According to an Iraqi interior ministry official, the first suicide bomber raced into the market and pretended to be unwell so that people would congregate around him. Then he detonated his explosives. A second attacker exploded his device as bystanders gathered around the victims, according to the ministry's statement. The dead and injured have been confirmed by Baghdad's Directorate of Terror Victims and Directorate of Health. Iraqi government emergency officials came on the scene to assist the victims.



Figure 1: IRCS volunteers visits to the affected families (Photo: IRCS)

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 livelihoods. These were daily workers, shoppers, and traders. This was the biggest suicide attack in Baghdad in the last three years.

Summary of current response

Overview of Host National Society

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 any potential support to the Ministry of Health in transferring the injured and providing first aid at triage stations. The government authorities immediately transported the affected people to the 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 to the affected families based on the list provided by relevant government authorities in different governorates. The Directorate of Terror's Victims and Directorate of Health in Baghdad was organized and information on affected people was gathered.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in-country

IRCS Headquarters works closely with the IFRC delegation in Baghdad, delivering a weekly update on DREF operations. The launch of the DREF operation was preceded by coordination and consultation with Movement partners in the country. ICRC, German, Norwegian, Danish, Turkish, Qatari, and Swedish Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies are among the Movement's Iraqi partners. Since the explosion, the IFRC delegation in Iraq has been working with the IRCS leadership and technical departments, as well as the IFRC MENA regional office, to share information about the DREF operation and give technical support. The ICRC supports the IRCS in its development and operations as the main partner, with an emphasis on the "Safer Access" approach, which promotes safer access to people affected by conflict and other forms of violence while limiting risks to staff and volunteers.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in-country

Police, army, and rescue teams were deployed to the scene by local authorities. Evacuation and transfer to hospitals were supported by the Ministry of Health and Civil Defense. According to the early observations of the IRCS team and the findings of the assessment, no such assistance has been provided to the victims' families by any government authority.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Needs analysis

Following the attack in central Baghdad's Tayaran Square, the IRCS conducted a rapid assessment to determine the needs of the affected families. The IRCS mobilized its staff and volunteers for the response and began working with the relevant authorities to collect validated information on affected people. Because of the shifting of dead remains and injured people to their hometowns, the operation activities were scattered across six governorates. IRCS Headquarters dispatched branch staff and volunteers throughout governorates to undertake visits and verify information on affected families, including the verification of deceased families, wounded people, and individuals whose livelihoods have been directly disrupted. It was deemed that psychological support and first aid were required for those who were immediately affected by the incident, including survivors, witnesses, and families who had lost loved ones. IRCS teams traveled to governorate cities to provide affected families with cash assistance and to organize PSS activities. Up to 33 families have lost family members, 110 individuals have been injured, and over 100 families' livelihoods have been disrupted in various ways, according to an initial assessment conducted by the IRCS. Due to injuries, some of them will be unable to work, while others will lose their physical ability to work. The IRCS has mobilized trained volunteers and personnel to provide psychosocial support to the injured and families who have lost loved ones through home visits, as well as first aid services for the injured. These families are in need of financial aid and have requested cash, food, and medical care. Those households have now lost their sole source of daily income.

The mental health of huge sectors of the population, particularly women and children, is being jeopardized by the complicated humanitarian situation, which includes exposure to violence, the loss of many lives, persistent stress, and a lack of stability. People's vulnerability has worsened as a result of deteriorated basic services, loss of livelihoods, and rampant inflation. While the situation varies across the country, the impacted population is also confronted with rising violence and a lack of safety, all of which contribute to an emergency spiraling out of control. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Iraqi government authorities have restricted movement and imposed curfews in governorates, which has been exacerbated by the country's deteriorating security situation. Later, the Iraqi government loosened the curfew and

eased the lockdown limitations within the country — starting in mid-May 2021, inter and intra-governorate mobility is closely governed by SOP.

Operation Risk Assessment

The IRCS is taking all necessary precautions to ensure the safety and security of staff and volunteers engaged in this operation, which will be prioritized due to the nature of the operational environment. The IRCS will continue to monitor the country's security situation and work closely with security agencies to mitigate risks on the ground. The country's security situation is being monitored by the IRCS security team. In light of the current state of extreme violence, IRCS must put in place strict security measures to ensure that the affected persons can be reached. In response to the recent violence, the IRCS has maintained operational safety and security measures throughout its activities to ensure that it retains access to the affected people as much as possible without putting its personnel at risk. More than ever, the IRCS is collaborating closely with local authorities to determine the best way for ensuring that humanitarian aid is delivered securely to the affected populations.

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 was scheduled to be completed in four months, with the main focus being on cash assistance and psychosocial support interventions. The operation was originally scheduled to last four months, but it has now been extended for another two months, with a deadline of 31 August 2021.

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 the loss of the 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 can 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) activities to support the affected families.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

	<p>Livelihoods and basic needs</p> <p>People reached: 1,452</p> <p>Male: 668</p> <p>Female: 784</p>		
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	256
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	32
# of wounded families receiving unconditional/multipurpose cash assistance		110	62
# of indirectly affected families receiving unconditional/multipurpose cash assistance		100	162

Progress towards outcomes

Providing cash assistance to those who have been affected is the biggest component of the programme. Three types of cash assistance will be provided to the affected people. The most important aspect of the program is providing economic assistance to those who have been affected. The impacted people will receive three sorts of cash support. To assist the implementation process, the Cash team at NHQ prepared cash program implementation guidelines, selection criteria, and data collection formats (beneficiary detail information) in cooperation with the branches. For improved programming, these were shared with the branches and personnel. IRCS has also dispatched two CVA-trained personnel to the branches to assist with the operation.

The total target is 242 families, but the IRCS, which assisted 256 families for this operation within the same budget allocation, exceeded the target owing to slight alterations in the plan for those families who lost their livelihoods. The other purpose was to contact the affected families in multiple locations; most of the families' contact numbers had stopped working, and they had been relocated.

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

To assist the implementation process, a cash working committee was established at the headquarters to validate the data received from the Directorate of Terror's Victims and Directorate of Health, Baghdad in consultation with the local branches.



Figure 2 IRCS team supporting affected families with cash assistance (Photo: IRCS)

The CVA focal person was appointed by the IRCS to train local branches in the cash disbursement procedure and to assist with operational activities. Individuals receive cash directly from the National Society branches, which keep track of each household's records. Multipurpose cash was handed to 256 families affected by the blasts in Tayaran Square in central Baghdad for basic needs and to help them restore their livelihoods as part of this operation.



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
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# of people reached with first aid services to reduce the health risks	80	42
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Output 2.1: Improved access to health care and emergency health care for the targeted population and communities.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
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# of affected people receiving first aid	80	42
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Following the explosion in Al-Tayaran Square, the injured suffered from the shock of the explosion and needed to be visited at home for primary health care. Because the affected people are not all in the same governorate, tracing the affected families is a major challenge in the response. After the explosions, the dead and injured were shifted to their hometowns in different governorates. As a result, the volunteers and staff spent more time tracing the affected people and individuals than they did with the standard post-disaster PSS program; these interventions are more focused on the home.



Figure 3 IRCS volunteers visit to injured persons for first aid/dressing and verification (Photo: IRCS)

To lessen the impact of trauma, the IRCS health department performed 42 home visits, during which first responders gave first aid and psychological support to the families of the deceased and injured. During the house visits, 23 wounded patients received first aid and wound dressing changes, as well as those who need home follow-up.

Outcome 6: The psychosocial impacts of the emergency are lessened

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with psychosocial support	1,452	200

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	200

Branches staff were initially deployed in six governorates to support first aid and PPS interventions during the reporting period. An initial orientation was held at the headquarters and branch levels, with 25 staff and volunteers from NHQ and the governorates branches in attendance.

Interventions for first aid, mental health, and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to the affected families are part of the operation's psychosocial component. The affected people are not all from the same governorate as the incident occurred in central Baghdad; in fact, the majority of the affected people are from different governorates.



Figure 4 IRCS staff and volunteers are organising PSS sessions with affected families at governorates level (Photo: IRCS)

The key challenge in the operation is reaching out to those families and verifying the affected individuals in the targeted governorates – based on the list provided by Baghdad's Directorate of Terror's Victims and Directorate of Health. As a result, volunteers and staff must spend more time with each family and individual than they would in a typical post-disaster 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

The IRCS has a strong network throughout the country, with all 18 governorate branches capable of providing relief in times of emergency. A large number of staff and volunteers have received disaster response training, with a focus on health, PSS, and hygiene promotion. These members have received extensive training in life-saving techniques and are ready to assist rescue operations in times of need. The IRCS is carrying out this operation through its Baghdad branch, with support from the national headquarters and national/branch response teams (N/BRT), as well as five additional governorate branches. Through 100 insured volunteers, they are directly supporting the DREF operation activities. Furthermore, both the IRCS HQ and the IFRC delegation in Iraq support implementation.

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

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

Regular meetings with the National Society are held to discuss the operation's progress and challenges. Appropriate mitigation steps are identified and implemented as soon as feasible to handle any issues that may arise.

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

IRCS has a strong acceptance to the local communities with their presence in all governorates and assisting the vulnerable people. IRCS with its mandate to ensure the wider provision of emergency mental health and psychosocial care to the individual and affected families which is needed in the country. 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 first-hand information and mobilized its team to further verify with the affected families in various governorates.

IRCS updates its social media accounts regularly. In addition, the IRCS website is updated regularly to offer any new information about the operation. From the moment the explosions occurred, rapid and detailed assessment teams were deployed at the branch level. To conduct assessments, the IRCS has completely engaged and activated its six governorates branches. The assessment data was consolidated by IRCS for the implementation of operating activities.

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

Prepared on 07/Jul/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	-58,611
Closing Balance	56,103

II. Expenditure by area of focus / strategies for implementation

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	57,786	58,611	-825
AOF4 - Health	42,155		42,155
Area of focus Total	99,941	58,611	41,330
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	58,611	56,103

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	34	14,727
Travel	6,226		6,226
Office Costs	6,756		6,756
Financial Charges	1,779	34	1,745
Operational Provisions		55,000	-55,000
Operational Provisions		55,000	-55,000
Indirect Costs	7,001	3,577	3,424
Programme & Services Support Recover	7,001	3,577	3,424
Grand Total	114,714	58,611	56,103



+CIFRC

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.