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Operation Update

Iraq: Droughts

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF Operation n° MDRIQ013	GLIDE n° OT-2021-000119-IRQ
Operation update n° 1; 30 June 2022	Timeframe covered by this update: 2 September to 30 June 2022
Operation start date: 2 September 2021	Operation timeframe: 6 months (extended) and current end date: August 2022
Funding requirements (CHF): CHF 680,569	DREF amount initially allocated: CHF 680,569
N° of people being assisted: 43,116 (7,186 households)	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), In Country Partner National Societies (PNS), The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Local government authorities, Ministry of Health and Environment, Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Agriculture, UNFAO	

Summary of major revisions made to emergency plan of action:

- This operation update informs on the exceptional extension of the implementation timeframe until 31 August 2022 due to the following:
 - Procurement delays for the food parcels.
 - NS delays in approval for hygiene kits procurement and signing of Framework Agreement with Financial Services Provider (FSP) for Cash assistance interventions.
 - Cash voucher assistance activities were delayed due to the amendment in the agreement with the financial service provider.
 - Operation activities were delayed due to the security situation in the implementation areas, COVID-19 restriction and Parliament Elections in the country, which impacted the sociopolitical situation and resulted in demonstrations and attacks disrupting the operation activities. This led to movement restrictions, operation delays and the occurrence of security incidents which limit the access to operation areas.
 - Several other risks were involved for the delays, e.g. spread of Crimean Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) virus, compounding with the reoccurrence of sandstorms, heatwaves and cholera outbreak in the country.

Overall budget remains the same.

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

Iraq is amid a water scarcity crisis stemming from record low levels of rainfall, poor water resource management, and reductions in water flow into the Tigris and Euphrates rivers from upstream countries. According to the United Nations Environmental Program Global Environment outlook¹, Iraq, which loses about 100,000 acres of

¹ *United Nations Environmental Program Global Environment outlook*

agricultural land per year has been identified as the fifth most vulnerable country globally to decreased water and food availability, extreme temperatures, and associated health problems. In addition, Iraq was identified as having the highest population growth rate in West Asia, which will further worsen the above conditions. Iraq is among the top 5 countries most affected by climate change, and the 39th most water stressed. Last year's record low rainfall, the second driest season in 40 years has led to water shortages, desertification, and soil erosion due to unsustainable agricultural practices and shrinking, damaged vegetation cover. Conflict has devastated land and water sources in Iraq, causing further soil erosion and contamination, while political uncertainty poses challenges to environmental governance.

Earlier this year in April 2022: A senior adviser from the Iraqi water resources ministry warned that the country's water reserves have decreased by half since last year, due to a combining effect of protracted drought, lack of rainfall and declining river levels, as officials continue to caution a deeply concerning environmental and humanitarian situation in Iraq. Water reserves are far lower than what the country had last year in 2021, by about 50 percent because of poor rainfall and water flow from neighbouring countries. Water levels in the Euphrates and Tigris rivers have dropped considerably in recent years. In the latest stark warning of the threats a heating climate poses to the country, a report by Iraq's Ministry of Water Resources towards the end of last year predicted that unless urgent action is taken to combat declining water levels, Iraq's two main rivers will be entirely dry by coming years. Ministry spokesperson mentioned that drought is causing long-term public health problems, including shortages of drinking water and poor-quality drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, and food and nutrition which is serious concern for local communities.

17 June 2022, Baghdad: Iraq confronts multiple challenges caused and exacerbated by climate change, including prolonged heat waves, declining precipitation, loss of fertile land, salinisation, insufficient infrastructure investments, transboundary water shortages and a prevalence of dust storms, the UN and NGOs in Iraq mark World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought with a call for action to protect the country from the devastating impacts. Water scarcity, the removal of topsoil and decline in land productivity have led to reduced food production in Iraq. A 2021 survey carried out by the Iraqi government, covering 7 governorates, found 37% of wheat farmers and 30% of barley farmers suffered crop failure. At the same time, incomes have plummeted as farmers do not have the harvested crops to sell, which directly impact upon food security. The drastic decrease in farmland and biodiversity in agriculture, land degradation and the increase of sand dunes have all added to the strain, leading to animal migration and deaths. This is compounded with dust storms experienced so far in 2022, which have even caused human fatalities. The 4 million people living in Iraq's downstream, Basra governorate are most affected by water scarcity. The marshlands of Iraq, with their deep cultural and human heritage, and natural resources for livelihoods, once represented the first line of defence against climatic changes and environmental damage. Reduced river water levels in the once great Tigris and Euphrates rivers have led to rising salt levels and deteriorating water quality. With annual evaporation up to 3 metres and lower river water, sea water has moved upriver, destroying 60,000 acres of agricultural land and 30,000 trees. As of March 2022, the displacement of an estimated 3,000 families due to drought and environmental degradation had been recorded across 8 governorates in central and southern Iraq. Recent studies have shown water scarcity to be one of the primary drivers of migration from rural to urban areas, alongside challenges to sustainable agriculture and food security.²

Drought conditions in Iraq have been exacerbated by the threat of climate change, which has contributed to record low rainfall and increasing temperatures throughout the country. The drought has affected northern Iraq since early 2021, while governorates in the South have witnessed decreased water supply and quality for several years. Crop and livestock production have since plummeted, impacting vulnerable communities that have been affected by conflict and displacement over the last several years. At least seven million people in Iraq have been affected by the drought in recent times which took a massive toll on access to water, food, basic services such as electricity, in addition to farmer livelihoods. Areas of intervention that were identified by Iraqi Red Crescent Society (IRCS) according to vulnerability criteria are, Basra, Ninewa, and Diyala. More information is available under the "needs analysis and Scenario planning section.

² [*Iraq: World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, UN and NGOs call for action, 17 June 2022*](#)

Summary of current response

Overview of Operating National Society

Three Emergency Medical Teams were dispatched in Diyala, Ninawa, and Basra through Mobile Health Clinics where 18 staff members, including doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and data collectors insured the delivery of primary healthcare, in addition to free medications for individuals affected by diseases caused by drought conditions. Each team was accompanied by a team of volunteers who provided awareness sessions. Finally, over 48 volunteers were identified, trained, and mobilized to provide psycho-social support (**PSS**) to affected communities.

Under Water and Sanitation, the IRCS set up four water treatment and desalination points in Basra and Diyala, in addition to an artesian well in Ninawa. Each of the above water sources fed into four water points which were rehabilitated by IRCS. In support, two dedicated emergency response units/modules (**KIT 5 and M15**) are readily available to provide a quick response serving up to 20,000 individuals in water treatment, storage, distribution, and hygiene promotion in anticipation of severe water outages in the foreseeable future. Under capacity building, six trainings were provided to volunteers on Child Hygiene and Sanitation, in addition to Menstrual Hygiene Management. These volunteers then provided awareness sessions in 20 schools. Other planned interventions include the distribution of hygiene kits which is set to be finalized in late June 2022.

Concurrently, the Livelihoods department was able to reach 5,775 households with food packages. Cash voucher assistance is currently ongoing through a third-party financial service provider and is expected to be finalized in late June 2022.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

IRCS Headquarters collaborating with the IFRC delegation in Baghdad and providing with the weekly update on DREF operation activities. Coordination and consultation with Movement partners in the country have been made the launching of DREF operation. The Movement partners present in Iraq include ICRC, German, Norwegian, Danish, Turkish, Qatar and Swedish Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies. Currently, ICRC is supporting IRCS for WASH interventions, functioning of Reverse Osmosis (RO) plants in Wassit, Al Muthanna, Babel and Al Qadisiyyah governorates to drought affected families. IRCS is also implementing school-based WASH activities in the same governorate. ICRC as its primary partner in its development and operations with focus on "Safer Access" approach that promotes safer access to persons affected by conflict and other situations of violence, whilst minimizing risks for staff and volunteers.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

IRCS conducted field visits with local authorities and federal government service points. In addition, close collaboration in information sharing and validation was maintained with the ministries of Health, Water sources, Agriculture, in addition to the Basra water directorate. Furthermore, several humanitarian actors are active in the country, such as UNFAO and WFP, who maintain direct support to the government, in addition to Oxfam, who implemented a water distribution intervention.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Needs analysis

During August 2021, IRCS conducted a nationwide multisectoral needs assessment with Collaboration between the Health, Disaster Management, and Water/Sanitation departments. The teams were working in a complimentary manner with open data sharing which allowed for a tailored response, based on specific needs in each area of intervention. IRCS engaged its staff and volunteers for response and started collaboration with the relevant Government authorities to collect relevant data. Sources used included the Government meteorological system, data on annual rainfall levels between 2019 and 2021 in addition to field visits to the

main official stakeholders such as the local authorities and federal government service points in the assessed areas. IRCS Headquarters then mobilized its branch staff and volunteers in respective governorates to conduct community visits and verify drought impact on the sanitary, economical, agricultural, and health situation. Following the above, the three governorates of Ninewa, Diyala, and Basra were determined to have the most vulnerable populations, with no sustainable interventions expected in the foreseeable future. In Northern Basra specifically, which faced the most severe droughts, IRCS collaborated with the Basra water directorate on a technical assessment following the initial one to identify the sub-districts most in need.

IRCS carried out multi-sectoral needs assessment in seven governorates. The study area for the assessment of the impact of the drought in the agriculture sector includes: Ninewa, Basra, Diyala, Erbil, Duhok, Wassit and Thiqr, governorates of Iraq. This assessment was conducted between the months of March – April 2022. The findings of the assessment suggest that the impact of the drought has severely affected vulnerable households in seven most affected governorates by the protracted drought spell. The below average rains and dry spell subsequent failure of cereal crops have resulted in negative coping mechanism, triggered stress and in-depth livelihoods shock amongst farmers and pastoralist households mainly due to water and grazing shortages. Rising food demand, urbanization, poor water management as well as climate change have combined to threaten children, the poor and the marginalized. This has put increased stress onto an agricultural system struggling to rehabilitate itself after decades of protracted crisis in the country. Assessment reveals that water sources are running out. The impending food security crisis comes when drought and water scarcity have decimated food production for millions. Feedback from the local communities indicates that the adverse conditions are leading, which become food insecurity issues in most of the households. In many droughts affected areas, due to non-availability of water and fodder, people have started migration to other areas with their animals. People have started leaving their unproductive cattle; even market prices are at lowest. Since Basra and south of Iraq is with highest livestock population requires fodder, which is becoming costly by every passing day. Due to low rainfall water scarcity is increasing. Ground water level is going down which may reduce the water table level. Especially, women and children are most marginalized communities will be most affected group in the drought.

According to the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR), lack of water affects the agriculture sector has multiple negative impacts such as, negative impact on the quantity and quality of agricultural crops and thus had an impact on the income of farmers. Lack of water causes decreases of sedimentation and high saturation of salt. The effect of water shortage had led to an increase in salt concentrations in the Shatt al-Arab waters, causing the destruction of all agricultural crops and the displacement of farmers from the countryside to urban areas. The country is classified as one of five most vulnerable to climate change effects and desertification. Water shortages have led this year to reduced quotas for rice and wheat farmers. Desertification and water scarcity disproportionately affect the most vulnerable. Vulnerable families who have already suffered from conflict and displacement now risk being caught in the cycle of poverty for longer. Of particular concern are children in rural areas, who missed education opportunities due to conflict and COVID-19, that may now be forced to turn to child labour and early marriage to financially help their families meet their basic water and food needs. Girls and women also face heightened vulnerability due to water scarcity in large part. Indeed, limited access to clean water affects menstrual hygiene, compromising the health and dignity of women and girls. Climate-related disasters also strain Iraq's already stretched health systems.

Operation Risk Assessment

Due to the nature of the operating environment, and despite having widespread acceptance across Iraqi territory, 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 of the country and liaise closely with the security institutions to reduce the risk in the field. IRCS security team is monitoring the security situation in the country. Looking into the extremely violent situation, that requires implementation of heightened security measures for IRCS to avoid any barriers that may impede 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, while avoiding undue risk to its personnel. IRCS more than ever, is jointly working with local authorities to find the best approach that ensures the safe delivery of humanitarian assistance to the affected populations.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Proposed strategy

Overall Operational objective:

The overall objective is to provide humanitarian food assistance to the financially poor and most vulnerable (7,186 households – 43,116 people) whose primary livelihood means were affected by drought in Ninewa, Diyala, and Basra governorates.

The operation was initially planned to be implemented within a six-month period (September 2021- March 2022) with a primary focus on emergency food security support, cash assistance, WASH, and health care services to drought-affected households. It was later extended to nine months, spanning the timeframe up to the end of June 2022. Currently, IRCS is requesting an exceptional two-month extension to finalize pending services which were delayed due to multiple factors, such as prioritization of other activities, and challenges with service providers. There were some delays due to the security situation in the implementation areas, COVID-19 restriction, and later Parliament Elections were announced in the country that impacted the sociopolitical situation resulted demonstrations and attacks which disrupted the operation activities. This led to movement restrictions, operation delays and occurrence of security incidents which limit the access to operation areas. Further delays happened; for example, procurement of food parcels procedures was not properly followed by the NS in compliance with the IFRC standard. IRCS took longer for signing of the Framework Agreement with Financial Service Provider (FSP). IRCS now signed an Agreement with FSP, and Cash distribution has been started, out of 1,500 drought affected families in three governorates, 500 families received cash assistance until the end of June. The unconditional multipurpose cash assistance is provided to the targeted families who lost their sources of income as a one-time 100 USD payment. NS is implementing the remaining operation activities, procurement of 500 hygiene kits, cash distribution to 1,000 families and ongoing Mobile Medical Units with sessions in three governorates. All activities will be completed end of July, and Lesson Learned Workshop will be organised in June 2022.

To ensure timely completion of remaining operation activities, IFRC country delegation has daily follow up with the NS technical teams and organising weekly meetings and following up with the management to expedite the processes for approvals to avoid any unnecessary delays to achieve the operation targets on time. NS has deployed the focal points (Cash & procurement, additional roving doctor for MMUs) to support local branches for implementation of pending operation activities in the field. Based on the overall response strategy, this DREF will be providing food parcels, WASH interventions and primary health care services to the drought affected people in three governorates. IRCS has also carried out multi-sectoral needs assessment in drought-affected governorates, and overall operational support to IRCS for effective and efficient drought response.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN



Livelihoods and basic needs

People reached: 36,000

Male: 18,072

Female: 17,928

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

Indicators	Target	Actual
# Of households that have enough food, cash, or income to meet their survival threshold	6,000	6,275

Output 1.1: Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security including food is provided to the most affected communities

Indicators	Target	Actual
# Of households reached with food assistance for basic needs	4,500	5,775
Output 1.2: Households are provided with unconditional/multipurpose cash grants to address their basic needs		
Indicators	Target	Actual
# Of households reached with multipurpose cash assistance for basic needs	1,500	500
Progress towards outcomes		
<p>Due to the drought's effect on mostly rural community livelihoods, particularly small-scale agricultural producers, providing food and cash assistance was deemed one of the main components of the programme. Under this operation, a one-off food parcel, in addition to a multipurpose cash transfer was aimed to cover for basic needs and restoring livelihoods, respectively. The proposed transfer value of USD 100 per household has been calculated based on the market price of items using the Iraq minimum household of 6 persons.</p> <p>To assist the implementation process, Cash team at NHQ in consultation of the branches, prepared the cash programme implementation guidelines, selection criteria, and formats for data collection (beneficiary detail information). The selection criteria of assisted people were based on their level of vulnerability, including households that have lost their source of livelihoods (loss of crops and animals, etc.), the chronically ill, elderly, female-headed households, lactating mothers, and under-five children (malnourished), pregnant women, and/or people with disabilities, availability, and access to potable water by households in the affected areas.</p> <p>For food parcels, the overall target was 4,500 households. However, each item (rice, canned food, etc.) was procured individually, and by bulk. As a result, IRCS was able to make savings and the final number of households reached was 5775, overachieving the initial target. A Post-distribution Monitoring survey was conducted with benefiting households within one week of distribution to gauge the relevance, and effectiveness of the items. The post-distribution monitoring process was successful according to the plan. However, during the interviews with participants it was felt that the vulnerabilities are enormous after the protracted crisis, COVID-19 and consecutive spell of droughts, which also caused lack nutritious food due to market price increase, low purchasing power due to stoppage of small economic activities such as farming etc.</p> <p>Cash Assistance was distributed to the individuals through a third-party financial service provider (Asia Hawala) while the National Society branches maintained the records for each household. Under this operation, multipurpose cash has been so far distributed to 500 families affected by droughts in the Ninewa governorate. Distribution has been delayed for the remaining governorates in 2021 and early 2022 due to pending challenges in the agreement with the service provider at the time. These has been since addressed, and distribution is expected to be complete by the end of June 2022. A post distribution monitoring is expected to take place in July 2022.</p> <p>A lesson learned exercise will be led by the Disaster management department in collaboration with the regional office at the end of June 2022.</p>		



Food parcels distribution to drought affected governorates (Photo by: IRCS)



Health

People reached: 40,780

Male: 20,472

Female: 20,308

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 by NS with services to reduce relevant health risk factors	40,780	37,109

Output 1.1: Improved access to health care and emergency health care for the targeted population and communities.

Indicators	Target	Actual
# Of Mobile Health Units deployed to provide health services support	3	3
# Of people reached through NS emergency health management programme	40,780	37,109

Progress towards outcomes

Under this operation, the IRCS deployed three Mobile Clinics in the three targeted governorates mentioned previously. Each Mobile team consisted of two doctors, two nurses, one pharmacist, and one data collector. The main intervention for these clinics was to provide primary healthcare and free medication to populations suffering from health conditions because of the drought. Assessment criteria was based on population's accessibility to healthcare services, quality of roads, in addition to the number of reported transmissible diseases by area. A total number of 37,109 individuals were reached (22,032 Females: 15,077 Males). IRCS health teams diagnosed and treated beneficiaries suffering from respiratory, digestive, chronic, urinary, skin diseases in addition to other medical conditions. In addition, each team was accompanied by group of volunteers who provided awareness sessions to a total of 5,486 individuals (2,556 Females; 2,930 Males). These were disaggregated as follows:

- 4,260 School Children
- 1,108 Local Community
- 83 Health Centre staff
- 35 government department employees



IRCS Mobile Health Units provide Primary Health Services to drought affected populations (Photo by: IRCS)

Outcome 2: The psychosocial impacts of the emergency are lessened

Indicators	Target	Actual
# Of people reached with psychosocial support	4,800	7,181
Output 2.1: Psychosocial support provided to the target population as well as to RCRC volunteers and staff		
Indicators	Target	Actual
# Of people, IRCS staff and volunteers reached through PSS activities	4,800	7,181

Progress towards outcomes

As per reporting period, branches staff have been deployed in the three governorates to support the Emergency Medical teams. Volunteers with a background in PSS were identified and selected. A total of 16 volunteers were deployed per governorate. initial orientations were given to volunteers at headquarters and branches level on awareness raising sessions, psychological first aid and home visits with the support of Health coordinators.

The Psychosocial component of the operation includes interventions representing mental health, and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to the affected families. Household level visits, awareness sessions and lectures in government offices were organized. Subjects included the effects of drought on the individual/community, protection, current psychological problems caused by drought, positive coping mechanisms to minimize its effects, in addition to instructions on the optimization of water usage. A total number of 7,181 individuals was reached, overpassing the initial target (3,767 Males, 3,414 Females; 2,955 Ninewa, 1,734 Basra, 2492 Diyala). these are disaggregated as follows:

- 3,139 school students
- 2,922 local community members
- 1,007 Health centre staff
- 67 government department employees
- 46 IRCS volunteers given sessions on stress management post-intervention





Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

People reached: 43,116

Male: 21,644

Female: 21,472

Outcome1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water-related diseases in targeted communities

Indicators	Target	Actual
% Of the targeted population has access to clean water, sanitation, and increased knowledge of personal hygiene according to Sphere standards	80%	64%

Output 1.1: Daily access to safe water which meets Sphere and WHO standards in terms of quantity and quality is provided to target population

Indicators	Target	Actual
# Of site assessments carried out and shared	8	14
% Of people provided with safe water (according to WHO standards)	80%	20%
# Of water points rehabilitated/repared	6	24
# Of Mobile/HH water treatment plants rehabilitated/repared	2	5

Output 1.2: Hygiene promotion activities which meet Sphere standards in terms of the identification and use of hygiene items provided to target population

Indicators	Target	Actual
# Of IRCS staff/volunteers trained on hygiene communication plan	60	120
% Of the targeted population reached with hygiene promotion activities	80%	48%
# Of hygiene kits distributed to target communities	1,500	1,000
# Of school children reached with hygiene promotion sessions	80%	100%

Progress towards outcomes

Under water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), the IRCS aimed to promote good personal and environmental hygiene to protect the health, with protecting the environment, promoting health, and facilitate access to resources. Selection criteria was based on individual water consumption per day, number of damaged water and hygiene facilities (water taps, latrines), school infrastructure, number of time shifts/school, gender disaggregation, and number of people with disabilities in each area.

Four water treatment and desalination points were set up in Basra and Diyala, in addition to an artesian well in Ninawa. Water treatment at each treatment facility was done at a rate of two cubic meters/hour. In addition, the Ninawa well, which did not require desalination, was equipped with a pump and 45,000 cubic meter tank for storage. Each treatment facility fed into four water points, and the Ninawa well fed into eight, which were rehabilitated by IRCS. In support, two dedicated emergency response units/modules (**KIT 5 and M15**) are readily available to provide a quick response serving up to 20,000 individuals in water treatment, storage, distribution, and hygiene promotion in anticipation of severe water outages in the foreseeable future. After usage, these modules are expected to be replenished and put back in stock. In total, 25,380,500 Liters of water were distributed, benefitting 7,513 individuals.

IRCS HQ conducted two trainings in each governorate for volunteers on Child Hygiene and Sanitation, in addition to Menstrual Hygiene Management, reaching 120 of volunteers and staff members. These volunteers then proceeded to provide awareness sessions in 20 schools, reaching approximately 20,000 children.



IRCS teams rehabilitate Water treatment plants/water points (Photo by: IRCS)

In addition, the WASH intervention included the distribution of hygiene kits. However, this activity was delayed due to the initial prioritization of other interventions in 2021. IRCS, after completion of the procurement process, organised a distribution in two governorates for 1,000 affected families in Diyala and Basra. For Ninewa, hygiene kits are procured and will be distributed in mid July 2022. For efficiency, staff members were split into three teams which will visit each household in quick succession. The first team will conduct a pre-KAP survey, followed by the distribution team. Finally, the third team will provide awareness sessions on proper usage of the kits immediately after distribution.

A Post-Distribution Monitoring exercise will be conducted with each household two weeks after distribution.

The IRCS bases its WASH activities on the Sphere minimum standard and the Humanitarian Charter to ensure good management of the entire water chain - water sourcing, treatment, distribution, collection, household storage, and consumption.

Protection, Gender & Inclusion

Outcome 1: Communities become more peaceful, safe, and inclusive through meeting the needs and rights of the most vulnerable.

Indicators	Target	Actual
<i>Operation demonstrates evidence of addressing the specific needs to ensure equitable access to disaster response</i>	Yes	Yes

Output 1.1: Programmes and operations ensure safe and equitable provision of basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors.

Indicators	Target	Actual
<i># Of assessment of specific needs conducted as per minimum standards commitments</i>	1	1

Progress towards outcomes

IRCS teams are constantly thriving to insure the inclusion of vulnerable populations (person with disability, pregnant and lactating women, elderly head of households, and widows) into their interventions. Mobile Health teams ensured an equitable access to both genders as reflected in their total reach. In addition, data collection tools included gender disaggregation's where possible as reflected in activity reports. Furthermore, awareness sessions on Menstrual Hygiene in addition to all-female PSS sessions were given by IRCS teams.

Migration

Outcome 1: National Societies are able to engage with migrants, displaced persons and host communities to more effectively assess, understand and respond to their priority needs.

Indicators	Target	Actual
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<i>The operation demonstrates the needs analysis of migrants, displaced persons, and host communities to identify their priorities</i>	Yes	Yes
Output 1.1: The IFRC coordinates, facilitates and provides National Societies with support, appropriate training, advice, and clear direction to guide their engagement in the field of migration and displacement, including in line with the targets and commitments of the IFRC Global Migration Strategy and other Movement frameworks.		
Indicators	Target	Actual
<i># of assessment conducted to identify the drought and climate change affected population</i>	1	1
Progress towards outcomes		
<p>The Iraqi Red Crescent governorate branches are coordinating with the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Centre and other government authorities in coordinating crisis management efforts regarding internally displaced persons due climate change among other reasons. The center is also active in broader crisis preparation processes as well as in the efforts of response and recovery.</p>		

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
<i># Of IRCS branches that are well functioning (for the operation)</i>	1	1
S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected		
Indicators	Target	Actual
<i># Of insured volunteers</i>	60	168
Progress towards outcomes		
<p>IRCS has a strong network in the country with all 18 governorate 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 three governorate branches, supported by the national headquarters and national/branch response teams (N/BRT). They are directly supporting the DREF operation activities through more than 168 insured volunteers. Furthermore, implementation is supported by both IRCS HQ and IFRC delegation in Iraq.</p>		

International Disaster Response		
S2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured		
Indicators	Target	Actual
<i>Effective and coordinated international disaster response ensured.</i>	Yes	Yes
S2.1.1 Effective and respected surge capacity mechanism is maintained.		
Indicators	Target	Actual
<i># of expert members deployed</i>	1	1
<i># Of surge deployments in support of the operation</i>	1	1
Progress towards outcomes		

IFRC delegation in Iraq is providing support to IRCS for this operation. The Disaster Risk Management Delegate with the support of MENA region DCC team 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. In addition, PMER Support from the MENA Regional Office was deployed for reporting.

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.

D. Financial Report

DREF Operation

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2021/09-2022/05	Operation	MDRIQ013
Budget Timeframe	2021/09-2022/03	Budget	APPROVED

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 13/Jul/2022

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRIQ013 - Iraq - Droughts

Operating Timeframe: 02 Sep 2021 to 31 Mar 2022

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	680,569
DREF Allocations	680,569
Expenditure	-544,031
Closing Balance	136,538

II. Expenditure by planned operations / enabling approaches

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items			0
PO02 - Livelihoods	141,091	-277	141,369
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash	146,578		146,578
PO04 - Health	158,336	489,755	-331,419
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	187,534	54,554	132,980
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion	2,939		2,939
PO07 - Education			0
PO08 - Migration	2,939		2,939
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery			0
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability			0
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability			0
Planned Operations Total	639,417	544,031	95,386
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships	11,758		11,758
EA02 - Secretariat Services			0
EA03 - National Society Strengthening	29,394		29,394
Enabling Approaches Total	41,152		41,152
Grand Total	680,569	544,031	136,538

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Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2021/09-2022/05	Operation	MDRIQ013
Budget Timeframe	2021/09-2022/03	Budget	APPROVED

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MDRIQ013 - Iraq - Droughts

Operating Timeframe: 02 Sep 2021 to 31 Mar 2022

III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	517,960	74,689	443,271
Food	124,200		124,200
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	151,800	64,661	87,139
Medical & First Aid	115,000	10,028	104,972
Cash Disbursement	126,960		126,960
Logistics, Transport & Storage	8,280		8,280
Distribution & Monitoring	8,280		8,280
Personnel	27,600		27,600
National Society Staff	18,400		18,400
Volunteers	9,200		9,200
Workshops & Training	77,280	31,955	45,325
Workshops & Training	77,280	31,955	45,325
General Expenditure	7,912	-398	8,310
Travel	3,312		3,312
Information & Public Relations	2,760		2,760
Financial Charges	1,840	-398	2,238
Operational Provisions		404,581	-404,581
Operational Provisions		404,581	-404,581
Indirect Costs	41,537	33,204	8,333
Programme & Services Support Recover	41,537	33,204	8,333
Grand Total	680,569	544,031	136,538

Contact information

Reference documents:

Click here for:

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

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

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For In-Kind donations and Mobilization table support

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For Performance and Accountability support (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)

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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**.
