



# ICRC

# Iraq: FACTS and FIGURES January – December 2010

## Overview

The year 2010 marked Iraqis in more ways than one. Instability, coupled with a wave of sporadic violence across the country, made Iraqis weary of what the future would hold. Though progress was achieved in some urban areas, in other places the lives of many Iraqis did not change for the better. 2010 was sadly another dangerous year, as thousands of civilians continued to be exposed in their daily lives to the unpredictability of suicide attacks and other forms of armed violence, especially in Baghdad, Mosul, Diyala, Anbar, Salah Al-Din and Kirkuk. In 2010, on a steady monthly average, several hundred lives were lost, while many hundred more people were injured or had their lives severely disrupted.

There remain deep pockets of vulnerability in today's Iraq. Almost a million women are estimated to be heading households by themselves, in the absence of their husbands who went missing, were detained or died during the years of unrest since the Iran-Iraq War broke out. Tens of thousands of people with disabilities continue to struggle in their day-to-day lives as they rely on the overstretched resources of social networks. The relatives of tens of thousands of people who went missing during decades of conflict are still waiting anxiously to know the fate of their loved ones. Over a million people internally displaced (IDPs) still depend on government rations and external help to get by, while entire communities in rural areas and large numbers in urban centres continue their daily struggle to obtain basic services. The inadequate provision of electricity and clean water remains a problem all over the country. Thousands of drought-stricken farmers suffer the effects, as do vital health-care facilities.

Throughout the year, the ICRC responded to the needs of people adversely affected by the armed conflict, though security constraints still hampered access to some areas. Particularly vulnerable groups, such as internally displaced persons, drought-stricken farmers, the disabled and households headed by women, were given such basic items as food, household essentials, agricultural inputs or help in obtaining State welfare benefits or ensuring economic self-sufficiency.

Visits to tens of thousands of people detained by the Iraqi central authorities, the Kurdish regional authorities and the US Forces in Iraq (USF-I) remained a top priority for the ICRC. In an effort to determine what happened to people missing in connection with the international conflicts during the 1980s and 1990s and to help families still waiting for news, the ICRC continued to provide support to the authorities and to forensic experts.



Sulaimaniya - ICRC Relief distribution for IDP families



Erbil - ICRC MEI beneficiary chicken vendor



Najaf - ICRC Medical Training Project at Sadr Hospital

The ICRC has been carrying out humanitarian activities in Iraq since the outbreak of the Iran-Iraq War in 1980. The organization works from its delegation in Baghdad and offices in Najaf, Basra, Amara, Erbil, Sulaimaniya, Dohuk, Kirkuk, Khanaqin and Ramadi. In 2010, the ICRC's priority was to visit people detained and to provide the civilian population with relief, while supporting hospitals and repairing health, water and sanitation infrastructure. During the year, the ICRC provided some emergency relief while continuing to provide livelihood support and projects to train and build capacity among Iraqi health professionals.

There are currently 731 staff, including 105 expatriates, working for the ICRC's Iraq operation. A total of 681 (86 expatriates and 595 national staff) are based in Iraq.

## Activities in favour of persons detained

A total of 227 visits were conducted by the ICRC to people held by the Iraqi central authorities, the Kurdish regional authorities and US Forces in Iraq (USF-I) with the aim of assessing the conditions in which detainees were being held, the treatment they received, respect for legal safeguards and access to proper health care.

In 2010, ICRC staff visited:

- more than 23,000 detainees held under the authority of the Iraqi ministries of justice, defence, interior and labour and social affairs, of whom about 800 were monitored individually;
- more than 3,500 detainees held at the behest of the Kurdistan regional authorities, of whom nearly 500 were monitored individually;
- over 6,000 people held under the authority of the USF-I, of whom about 550 were monitored individually;
- about 500 women in prisons held under the authority of the justice ministry and 400 minors in juvenile detention facilities, including 52 women and 27 minors who were monitored individually.

In addition, the ICRC issued nearly 1,300 detention certificates in 2010 to former detainees, making them eligible to receive social welfare benefits.

The ICRC also monitors the situation of detained foreigners. If they agree, it can notify their embassies that they are being detained and arrange for them to be repatriated upon their release. In 2010, the ICRC repatriated 12 released detainees.

## Helping detainees and their families stay in contact

In 2010, thousands of detainees visited by the ICRC were able to restore and maintain contact with their relatives by exchanging news through Red Cross messages. Concerned relatives seeking information on a family member in USF-I custody also made use of an ICRC "helpline." Families outside Iraq contacted their nearest ICRC delegation or National Red Cross or Red Crescent Society.

- Nearly 18,000 messages were exchanged with the support of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society.
- Around 18,000 phone calls from families were processed through the helpline.

The ICRC issues travel documents to refugees without passports who have been identified for resettlement. In 2010, some 800 such documents were issued, including 765 to Palestinian refugees from Al-Walid camp who resettled abroad.

## Helping families clarify the fate of their missing relatives

The ICRC supports the efforts of the authorities to establish the whereabouts of thousands of people still unaccounted for as a result of past conflicts, and facilitates the exchange of information between the countries concerned and the repatriation of human remains. In 2010, the ICRC:

- chaired a meeting of the Tripartite Commission, five meetings of its Technical Sub-Committee dealing with cases of people missing from the 1990-1991 Gulf War, and one forensic meeting followed by a joint field exhumation in May 2010 in Kuwait;
- chaired a high-level meeting in Geneva of the Tripartite Committee dealing with cases of people missing from the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq War;
- facilitated the repatriation of the human remains of 55 Iraqi soldiers from Kuwait and of 11 Iranian soldiers from Iraq;
- through the mechanisms in place and on the basis of information provided by the parties, resolved eight cases from the 1990-1991 Gulf War and several hundred cases from the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq War.

Since 2003, the ICRC has been training local forensic experts in the identification and management of human remains, while supplying equipment and repairing facilities to help the Medico-Legal Institute in Baghdad enhance its technical capacity. In 2010, an official from the Institute attended a forensic genetics course in the UK. In addition, a course on data management was organized for employees of Al-Zubair Centre in Basra.



Basra - ICRC employee delivers a Red Cross Message to one of the citizens.

## Bringing relief assistance to internally displaced people and vulnerable residents

Following assessments carried out directly by ICRC staff:

- 18,000 people coping with hardship following the displacements that took place in Dohuk, Erbil, Sulaimaniya and Ninawa governorates were provided with food, hygiene items and household essentials;
- more than 70,000 residents and returnees living in vulnerable rural communities received about 2,100 tonnes of fertilizer and over 950 tonnes of seed;
- 15,000 internally displaced women, heading their households in the absence of their husbands, received monthly food and hygiene parcels;

- 70,000 destitute Iraqis received food and essential household items during the holy month of Ramadan.

Family food parcel	Hygiene parcel	Essential items
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 35 kg rice</li> <li>• 4 kg white beans</li> <li>• 4 kg red split lentils</li> <li>• 2 kg chick peas</li> <li>• 4 l vegetable oil</li> <li>• 2 l olive oil</li> <li>• 1 kg iodised salt</li> <li>• 2 kg tomato paste</li> <li>• 2 kg sugar</li> <li>• 2 kg tea</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 kg washing powder</li> <li>• 4 l dish washing liquid</li> <li>• 40 female hygiene pads</li> <li>• 10 disposable razors</li> <li>• 1 piece shaving cream</li> <li>• 1 shaving brush</li> <li>• 3 tooth brushes</li> <li>• 3 tooth paste tubes, 75 ml each</li> <li>• 8 pieces toilet soap, 200g each</li> <li>• 0.5 l shampoo</li> <li>• 2 bath towels, 40 x 90 cm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 blankets</li> <li>• 2 jerry cans</li> <li>• 1 bucket</li> <li>• 1 kitchen set</li> <li>• 1 thermos 20 l</li> <li>• 1 tea pot</li> <li>• 1 kettle</li> <li>• tarpaulins</li> <li>• tents</li> </ul>

## Boosting the productive capacity of communities and internally displaced people

Livelihood-support projects for vulnerable resident communities and displaced people who returned home were carried out in rural areas in Wasit, Babil, Diyala, Anbar, Salah Al-Din, Baghdad, Ninawa and Dohuk. This included the supply of 2,100 tonnes of fertilizer, about 950 tonnes of seed, small livestock such as goats and sheep, and livestock vaccines and fodder.

- Over 10,000 vulnerable farmers were able to support their families through these projects. Some 20,000 people overall in Babil, Anbar, Salah Al-Din, Diyala and Dohuk governorates benefited.
- A total of 48 km of irrigation canals were upgraded while 115 hectares of land were reclaimed by community labourers as part of a cash-for-work scheme.

## Assisting women heading households

Women looking after their families alone are among the most vulnerable people in Iraq. Large numbers of families live in poverty or destitution after their male breadwinner is detained, killed or goes missing. Many lack independent sources of income and depend mainly on relatives and charity in a society where women are not raised to be in charge of a family. Finding a job is difficult and the State's support mechanisms still fail to reach large numbers of families in need. In 2010:

- over 2,500 vulnerable families headed by women received food, hygiene items or household essentials;

- 17 projects were initiated, either directly by the ICRC or in cooperation with local NGOs, to help women cover the basic needs of their families in Baghdad and Basra by running small businesses such as beauty salons and grocery shops.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs welfare benefit can alleviate the plight of families, but experience has shown that it is often difficult and costly to apply for. In cooperation with local women's NGOs, the ICRC advised and supported women applying for the benefit, and reimbursed their transportation costs. It also maintained a regular dialogue with the ministry and monitored the delivery of the benefit. In 2010, 803 women successfully submitted their applications with help from the ICRC.



Sulaimaniya- ICRC assistance to IDPs women in Qandil area

## Empowering the disabled

People disabled in the armed conflict who head households were given grants to start small businesses in such fields as agriculture, crafts and trades. The aim is not only to help the disabled care for their families but also to help restore their dignity by making them feel useful and needed again. In 2010, 461 micro-economic initiatives, such as grocery stores and coffee shops, barbershops, beekeeping enterprises and car repairs workshops, benefited 461 families – roughly 3,000 people – in Dohuk, Erbil, Sulaimaniya, Ninawa and Kirkuk. Household incomes were increased by an average of 60 per cent.

## Helping hospitals and primary health-care centres deliver better health care

The ICRC helped Iraqi health-care facilities in various ways to enhance their capacity to cope with mass casualties.

A joint training project initiated in 2009 by the ICRC in coordination with the Iraqi Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Health of the Kurdistan Regional Government to strengthen emergency services and trauma management, which took place in Sulaimaniya Emergency Hospital and Al-Sadr Teaching Hospital in Najaf, continued in 2010.

- A total of 129 doctors and 126 nurses were certified through the training project in trauma management, infection control and teamwork. A total of 244 doctors and 341 nurses from 17 governorates received the training in 2009 and 2010.
- A total of 44 surgeons and other doctors were trained in trauma management and surgical techniques for weapon-wounded patients.
- The primary health-care centres of Rabea and Makhmoor in Ninawa, Abbasi and Rashad in Kirkuk, Sheikh Bawa and Qarataba in Diyala, Tali'a in Babel and Shinafiya in Diwaniya, serving an overall rural population of more than 260,000 inhabitants, benefited from ICRC support to the Ministry of Health aimed at enhancing the quality and provision of emergency services, hygiene control and medicine stock management.
- A total of 128 patients of Al-Rashad Psychiatric Hospital in Baghdad benefited from creative and recreational activities made possible through ICRC occupational therapy support projects.

## Providing physical rehabilitation and social integration for disabled people

Since 1993, the ICRC has provided limb-fitting and physical rehabilitation services helping disabled people reintegrate into the community. It has donated equipment and provided sponsorship and training.

The ICRC runs a rehabilitation and limb-fitting centre in Erbil, and supports 11 physical rehabilitation centres and crutch workshops run by the Iraqi Ministry of Health in Baghdad, Nasiriya, Tikrit, Hilla, Najaf, Falluja, Erbil and Basra and the prosthetic-orthotic department of the Institute of Technical Medicine in Baghdad. In 2010, these centres:

- provided services for 31,622 patients, including 17,683 amputees;
- provided 16,199 prostheses and orthoses.

The ICRC sponsored the attendance of nine Iraqi orthopaedic technicians at internationally recognized courses in prosthetics and orthotics that took place in Cambodia, Tanzania and Scotland.

## Helping civilians at risk from unexploded ordnance

Landmines, unexploded ordnance and other lethal debris of war are still a serious threat in Iraq. They add to the many hardships that Iraqi civilians must deal with as a consequence of decades of armed conflict. In 2010, the ICRC stepped up its efforts to help the civilian population get back on its feet by launching an initiative to reduce the impact of weapon contamination. In June 2010, the ICRC started clearing contaminated lands in Missan governorate, in the southern part of the country, one of the worst-affected areas. As the sole humanitarian organization involved in community-level clearance activities in the governorate, the ICRC has removed over 1,600 unexploded shells and bombs from dangerous areas in the districts of Qalat Saleh and Al-Mejar Al-Kabir inhabited by more than 10,000 people.



Missan - ICRC Explosive Ordnance Disposal staff (EOD) during clearance in Missan governorate.

## Improving access to clean drinking water and providing better sanitation

The reconstruction and improvement of water supply and sanitation systems in destitute and conflict-affected areas continued. The ICRC carried out works to improve the general conditions in health-care facilities and detention places by repairing and upgrading buildings and water, electrical and sanitation systems. It provided safe drinking water for internally displaced people, residents and hospital patients when needed. In 2010:



*Erbil - ICRC water treatment project in Safaya*

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- almost four million Iraqis all over the country benefited from repair, maintenance and reconstruction activities in the water and sanitation sectors. The ICRC repaired 18 water treatment plants, 20 compact units, two boosting stations, two pumping stations, and 13 water supply projects;
- over 12,000 displaced people living in settlements received clean water by truck. Water was also supplied to three major Baghdad hospitals during emergencies;
- over 1,400 patients benefited from repair or construction works carried out in nine primary health-care centres in Ninawa, Diyala, Anbar, Salah Al-Din, Baghdad, Kirkuk and surrounding areas;
- 26 hospitals with a total capacity of around 5,500 beds benefited from repair or extension works;
- the autopsy rooms of the Baghdad Medico-Legal Institute and the Biji Medico- Legal Unit were repaired and supplied with additional mortuary fridges;
- living conditions for about 700 detainees in four prisons in central and southern Iraq were improved; sanitation work was carried out in the detention ward of Al-Rashad psychiatric hospital; water storage and supply facilities in Hilla and Baghdad prisons were improved;
- 127 water treatment plant technicians benefited from hands-on practical training sessions in northern Iraq and 143 maintenance staff from hospitals and primary health-care centres were trained in Baghdad and Basra.

## Promoting compliance with international humanitarian law

The ICRC aims to protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and prevent suffering by promoting compliance with international humanitarian law. In Iraq, ICRC staff regularly held information sessions on international humanitarian law for local government officials, community leaders, religious leaders, tribal leaders, journalists, university students and lecturers, hospital staff and Iraqi Red Crescent Society staff and volunteers. A seminar on Islam and international humanitarian law was held under the auspices of the University of Dohuk for religious scholars from the Iraqi Kurdistan region, Kirkuk and Mosul. Academic institutions were supported in their efforts to develop the teaching of international humanitarian law. Two Iraqi law teachers and two government officials participated in the annual Arabic-language course on international humanitarian law held in Beirut in February.

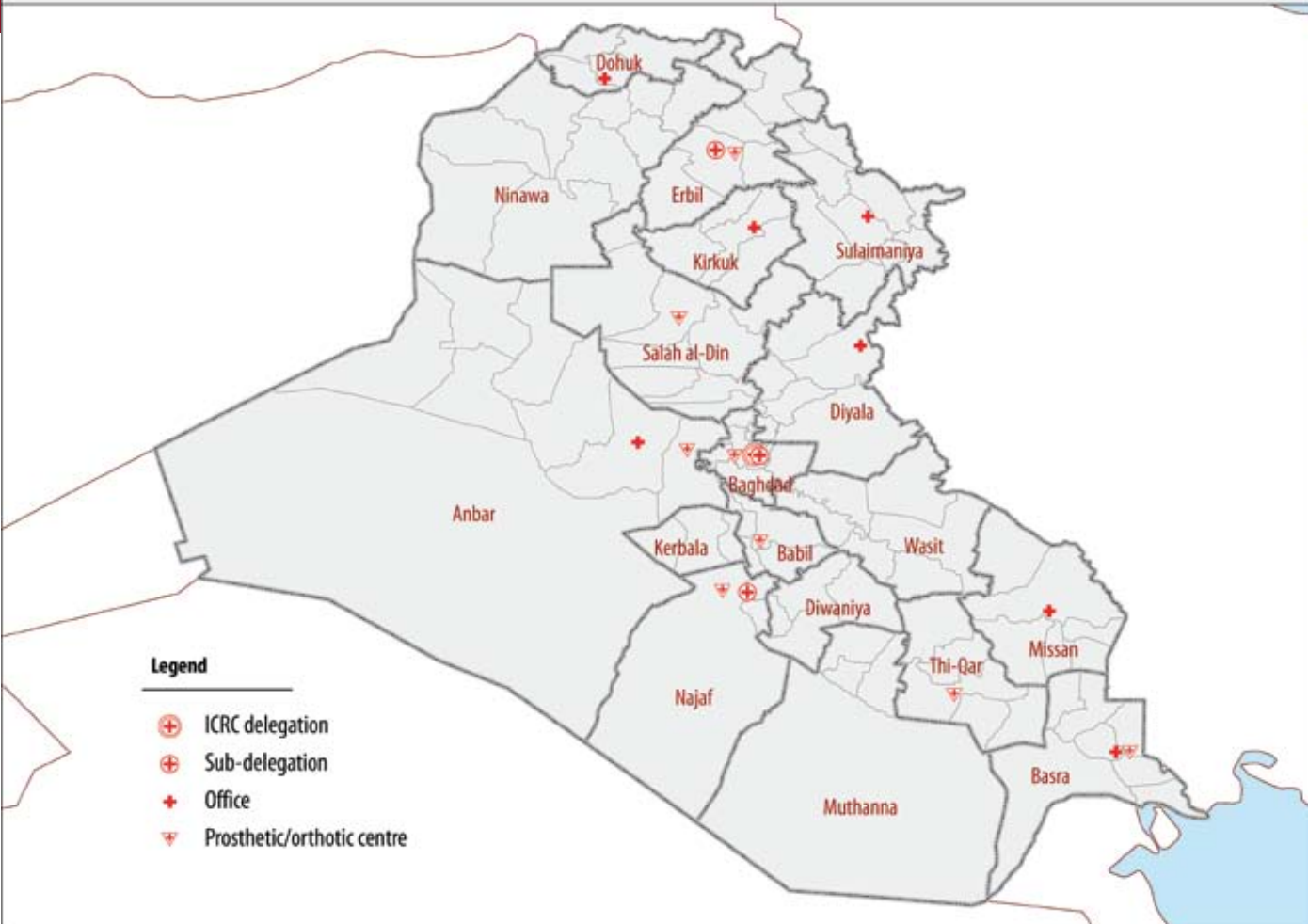
Information sessions on international humanitarian law were held for senior members of the Iraqi National Army, the Iraqi Police Services, the Peshmerga, the Assayesh and other security forces. Seven members of the Iraqi Security Forces attended courses on international humanitarian law in Italy designed to help incorporate the law into regular military training. One member of the Iraqi Security Forces attended a course at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy on legal issues arising from operations across the security spectrum and involving military, police and civil officials. An Iraqi Security Forces officer attended a workshop in Lucerne, Switzerland, aimed at exchanging information on the international legal framework governing military operations in today's world. In addition, over a thousand Iraqi Security Forces personnel attended information sessions, workshops and a train-the-trainers course on international humanitarian law.



*Sulaimaniya - ICRC held a course on IHL for police officers in Garmyan police directorate.*

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# ICRC operations in Iraq



### Legend

- ICRC delegation
- Sub-delegation
- Office
- Prosthetic/orthotic centre

Scale 1:3 800 000 (A3)  
0 37.5 75 150  
Kilometers

For internal use only  
This map is for information purposes only  
and has no political significance



Basra - ICRC Help Line office



Basra - Iraqi Human remains handover from the Kuwaiti authorities to Al Zubair Centre of the Iraqi Ministry of Human Rights.



Basra - Beneficiary at Basra orthopaedic centre, supported by the ICRC

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## Mission Statement

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance.

The ICRC also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles.

Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the Geneva Conventions and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It directs and coordinates the international activities conducted by the Movement in armed conflicts and other situations of violence.



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