

IRAQ



EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection	16,575
Assistance	46,258
Prevention	7,120
Cooperation with National Societies	1,346
General	-

► **71,299**

of which: Overheads 4,351

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	84%
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PERSONNEL

Expatriates	99
National staff (daily workers not included)	587

KEY POINTS

In 2010, the ICRC:

- further extended its presence in Iraq, enabling it to implement its activities directly through its own staff, assess needs in previously inaccessible regions and open an office with expatriate staff in Kirkuk
- monitored the treatment and living conditions of around 32,800 people held in 81 places of detention, including 1,839 individually monitored detainees
- strengthened the resilience of IDPs, households headed by women, farmers and disabled people by providing them with livelihood support benefiting 73,597 people, as well as help with obtaining State benefits
- improved the delivery of essential water and sanitation services to some 4.4 million Iraqis countrywide
- facilitated the transfer of expertise by providing training to more than 460 doctors and nurses, water treatment plant operators, prosthetic/orthotic technicians and physiotherapists
- started a project to clear mines/explosive remnants of war, making life safer for more than 10,000 inhabitants in the Missan governorate by clearing some 1,600 pieces of ordnance

The ICRC has been present in Iraq since the outbreak of the Iran-Iraq war in 1980. Protection activities focus in particular on people detained by Iraqi government, the Kurdistan regional authorities and the US forces in Iraq and on efforts to restore contact between separated family members with the support of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society. Assistance activities involve helping IDPs and residents restore their livelihoods, with a focus on households headed by women, supporting physical rehabilitation centres and training medical personnel, and repairing and upgrading water, sanitation, health and detention infrastructure. The ICRC continues to promote IHL among weapon bearers.

CONTEXT

Despite improvements in the security situation, Iraq was still wracked by armed conflict. Armed violence, including bombings, election-related incidents and attacks by armed groups, continued to kill, displace or otherwise affect people, disrupting the lives of many communities; minority groups were often singled out. Inhabitants in north/north-western areas were displaced as a result of tensions and shelling in May/June.

Inconclusive elections in March 2010 were followed by months of political deadlock. The formation of a new all-inclusive government started in November when the Iraqi parliament elected the president, who in turn appointed the prime minister. By year-end, many key ministries had yet to be filled.

While economic development and service provision improved in some urban areas, the new government faced many challenges, for example in meeting health and sanitation requirements in rural communities. The need for water remained particularly acute in view of persistent drought. Despite widespread weapon contamination, hardly any organizations were involved in clearance of mines/explosive remnants of war (ERW). The combined security and economic problems dissuaded many Iraqis who had fled to neighbouring countries from returning.

The United States of America pursued the withdrawal of its troops. During the gradual closure and handover of US internment facilities, inmates continued to be transferred to the custody of the Iraqi authorities. Many families remained without news of relatives who went missing during conflicts involving Iraq since 1980.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

PROTECTION

CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)				
Red Cross messages		Total	UAMs/SCs*	
RCMs collected		2,901		
RCMs distributed		4,727		
Names published on the ICRC family-links website		9,456		
Reunifications, transfers and repatriations		Total		
People transferred/repatriated		5		
Human remains transferred/repatriated		12		
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons ¹		Total	Women	Minors
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		79	2	12
People located (tracing cases closed positively)		140		
Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2010 (people)		2,500	20	103
UAMs/SCs,* including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers		Total	Girls	Demobilized children
UAM/SC cases still being handled by the ICRC/National Society at 31 December 2010		1	1	
Documents				
People to whom travel documents were issued		803		
Official documents relayed between family members across borders/front lines		42		
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
ICRC visits		Total	Women	Minors
Detainees visited ²		32,801		
Detainees visited and monitored individually		1,839	63	24
Detainees newly registered		913	29	21
Number of visits carried out		228		
Number of places of detention visited		81		
Restoring family links		Total		
RCMs collected		8,294		
RCMs distributed		9,154		
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative		62		
Detainees released and transferred/repatriated by/via the ICRC		12		
People to whom a detention attestation was issued		1,876		

* Unaccompanied minors/separated children

1. Including people missing as a consequence of the 1990–91 Gulf War/not including people missing as a consequence of the 1980–88 Iran-Iraq war

2. All detainees known through the authorities' notifications and followed up by the ICRC

ASSISTANCE

CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)				
Economic security, water and habitat		Total	Women	Children
Food	Beneficiaries	105,763	30%	51%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	Beneficiaries		
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	99,651	28%	53%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	Beneficiaries		
Agricultural, veterinary and other micro-economic initiatives	Beneficiaries	73,597	25%	50%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	Beneficiaries		
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	4,390,364	30%	39%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	Beneficiaries		

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS				
ASSISTANCE				
Health		Total	Women	Children
Health centres supported	Structures	4		
Average catchment population		106,070		
Consultations	Patients	75,802		
	<i>of which curative</i>		21,338	29,787
	<i>of which ante/post-natal</i>		6,244	
Immunizations	Doses	34,076		
	<i>of which for children aged five or under</i>	33,606		
	<i>of which for women of childbearing age</i>	470		
Referrals to a second level of care	Patients	157		
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
Economic security, water and habitat				
Food	Beneficiaries	17,113		
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	7,370		
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	1,400		
WOUNDED AND SICK				
Hospitals				
Hospitals supported	Structures	23		
	<i>of which provided data</i>	4		
Admissions	Patients	3,733		
	<i>of whom weapon-wounded</i>	3,733		
Water and habitat				
Water and habitat activities	Number of beds	5,623		
Physical rehabilitation				
Centres supported	Structures	13		
Patients receiving services	Patients	31,622	4,149	9,071
New patients fitted with prostheses	Patients	1,505	231	102
Prostheses delivered	Units	3,451	399	144
	<i>of which for victims of mines or explosive remnants of war</i>	378		
New patients fitted with orthoses	Patients	7,677	1,133	4,688
Orthoses delivered	Units	12,748	1,498	8,774
	<i>of which for victims of mines or explosive remnants of war</i>	30		
Crutches delivered	Units	2,087		
Wheelchairs delivered	Units	86		

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The ICRC continued to expand its presence and operational reach in Iraq, enabling it to assess and respond to humanitarian needs in a more direct and targeted manner. Intensified networking with authorities, community and religious leaders and weapon bearers, combined with communication to facilitate field operations, was crucial to ensuring greater acceptance of and support for ICRC action. The ICRC gained access to areas its own staff had not been able to visit in several years (Babil, Diyala, Kirkuk, Ninewa, Salaheddin, Wassit, and areas around Baghdad city). By year-end, most staff involved in the operation were based inside the country, including 90 expatriate delegates. However, limited access and security and other constraints still hindered the full implementation of planned activities; for example, the number of people benefiting from economic security projects fell below target.

People newly displaced by the ongoing violence received ad hoc food and other emergency supplies. Based on targeted needs assessments, the ICRC assisted particularly vulnerable groups such as IDPs, households headed by women, disabled people and impoverished farmers, emphasizing livelihood rather than direct aid. The ICRC conducted a comprehensive assessment in the second part of the year aimed at increasing the effectiveness of its

action for destitute households headed by women. Vulnerable returnees and residents in rural communities in insecure and neglected areas of Anbar, Babil, Baghdad, Diyala, Dohuk, Ninewa, Salaheddin and Wassit governorates took part in agricultural projects; needs assessments continued in other rural areas.

Large segments of the population in these areas benefited from assistance provided regularly to primary health care centres. Medical and surgical supplies enabled hospitals to better cope with sudden high influxes of wounded people. In parallel, Iraqi doctors and nurses obtained additional qualifications through a joint project with the Iraqi central and Kurdistan regional governments to strengthen the Iraqi emergency services. Training, material and technical support to physical rehabilitation centres across the country continued, enabling them to provide care for the growing number of people with conflict-related disabilities.

Some 4.4 million Iraqis benefited from repair, maintenance and construction projects to improve water and sanitation services, systematically involving the authorities and including training components. The focus of activities to improve the water supply shifted to neglected rural and/or disputed areas that hosted many IDPs or were otherwise affected by conflict.

The ICRC visited thousands of detainees/internees held by Iraqi, Kurdish or US authorities, mostly in Iraqi places of detention, as detainees were being transferred to Iraqi jurisdiction; respect for their judicial guarantees was one of the priorities in the ICRC's dialogue with the detaining authorities. The voluntary repatriation of released foreign detainees and internees continued. Joint assessments with the Iraqi Correctional Service were conducted, aimed at improving prison water and sanitation conditions.

Progress was made in work with the Iraqi authorities to clarify the fate of people still unaccounted for from the 1980–88 Iran-Iraq war and the 1990–91 Gulf War. Medico-legal institutes continued to draw on ICRC expertise and material assistance to strengthen their capacities.

After initial delays, an ICRC project to clear mines/ERW dating from the Iran-Iraq war began in mid-2010, with community mine-risk education carried out by the Iraqi Red Crescent Society.

Various military and civil society target groups increased their awareness of IHL and the ICRC's action by attending briefings/presentations.

In addition to cooperating with Movement partners, the ICRC coordinated its activities with those of UN agencies and other humanitarian organizations to identify unmet needs and avoid duplication.

CIVILIANS

Increased presence on the ground allowed the ICRC to monitor the situation of civilians more closely, although access constraints limited its ability to collect extensive first-hand information on IHL violations. All parties concerned were called upon publicly to respect IHL, notably its provisions prohibiting attacks targeting civilians and indiscriminate attacks.

The situation at Camp Ashraf housing several thousand members of the Iranian Mojahedin Khalq group was regularly discussed with the authorities and other stakeholders to ensure compliance with IHL.

Conflict victims have their urgent needs addressed and regain self-sufficiency

Restoring or boosting conflict-affected people's livelihoods was a priority. Based on assessments, 53,436 people (8,307 households) benefited from agricultural inputs or other micro-economic initiatives. They included 7,829 destitute drought-stricken farmers (with their families, 50,175 people) who boosted their harvests thanks to ICRC agricultural inputs and the upgrading of irrigation canals as part of cash-for-work schemes. Combined with land reclamation, restocking and cattle vaccination campaigns, this meant they could continue to live off the land rather than seek work in cities. Some 465 disabled patients, including 16 women, from ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centres started small businesses with ICRC grants, raising their family income by 40–80% (benefiting 3,166 people).

IDP households headed by women received particular attention; 2,505 of them (15,030 people) got food and essential household items monthly until scheduled distributions ended in May, as well as help with obtaining State benefits. After social services were decentralized, destitute women encountered additional problems in registering for benefits, although the ICRC urged central and local authorities to solve the problem. Thirteen households (95 people) participated in an initiative started by the ICRC with local NGOs to strengthen their income-generating capacities. The low number was largely due to the complex environment and the difficulties associated with identifying the types of project best suited to the women's needs and cultural context. After conducting a new comprehensive assessment of women's needs and the State pension system in the second part of the year, the ICRC decided to review its approach for 2011.

In addition, some 17,801 people displaced as a result of ongoing violence received one-off emergency food rations and 11,689 hygiene/household items. During Ramadan, over 72,900 vulnerable people received special food and relief handouts.

Water supply and health care improve in remote areas

Some 4.4 million Iraqis, including some 450,000 IDPs, mainly in violence-prone rural and disputed areas, enjoyed better water and sanitation services, contributing to a safer environment and disease prevention. People had access to upgraded water facilities, new supply systems and refurbished primary health care centres. Some 7,000 IDPs in settlements were supplied by water-trucking. All projects were designed to involve authorities and communities in rebuilding infrastructure. Over 120 water treatment plant operators enhanced their skills at ICRC training courses.

In 2010, an estimated 280,000 inhabitants, including IDPs, had better access to basic health care and emergency services in 8 ICRC-supported rural centres. Mid-year these centres started receiving more comprehensive ICRC on-site support focusing on strengthening hygiene and universal precaution, drug management, emergency services and adequate care for women and children, as well as structural improvements. Data from these centres were only partially available. However, as a result of ICRC action, the local health authorities appointed additional female doctors and provided equipment such as ambulances and beds to some facilities.

Weapon contamination is tackled

Communities in affected areas continued to be informed of the threat posed by weapon contamination through Iraqi Red Crescent awareness-raising activities, with ICRC material support.

After some delays, an ICRC project to clear mines/ERW in Missan governorate started in mid-year, in coordination with the authorities, the National Society and the Regional Mine Action Centre. By year-end, the team had cleared some 1,600 pieces of ordnance, making life safer in 26 areas.

Families receive news of their relatives

Acting as a neutral intermediary, the ICRC continued to encourage the parties concerned to clarify the fate of people still unaccounted

for from the 1980–88 Iran-Iraq war and the 1990–91 Gulf War in bilateral meetings and through the related mechanisms; some progress resulted (see *Iran, Islamic Republic of* and *Kuwait*).

Dialogue continued with the central authorities on the creation of a national centre as well as the adoption of legislation to deal with the issue of missing persons from all conflicts. Discussions with oil companies and the authorities centred on the need to apply Iraqi and international law to protect human remains found during drilling operations. The regional authorities in Erbil agreed to increased ICRC involvement in the Kurdish governorates, starting with an assessment of forensic capacities.

Medico-legal institutes and hospitals received further support in the identification and storage of human remains. An ICRC-sponsored forensic expert attended a specialized DNA training course abroad. The Al-Zubair Centre in Basra installed an archiving system for better management of the files of Iraqi soldiers killed in action during the Iran-Iraq and Gulf wars; its staff received forensic training. At Baghdad's medico-legal institute, a second autopsy room was being refurbished, while the Beiji general hospital received a new mortuary refrigerator.

People restored family links, mainly with detained or interned relatives, via the Iraqi Red Crescent/ICRC RCM service. Six families visited relatives detained in Kuwait since 1991. People mainly of Palestinian origin resettled or joined family in third countries after receiving ICRC travel documents. A joint assessment paved the way for the National Society and the ICRC to strengthen family-links services for detainees and migrants.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

People in the custody of the Iraqi central government, the Kurdistan regional government and the United States Forces-Iraq continued to receive visits from the ICRC conducted according to its standard procedures. Although security constraints hampered the ICRC's work in some parts of the country, 32,801 detainees held in 81 facilities were visited, including 1,839 individually

monitored and 913 newly registered detainees. After ICRC visits, the detaining authorities received confidential feedback on detainees' treatment and living conditions. The safety and judicial rights of people transferred to the Iraqi authorities during the gradual closure and handover of US internment facilities featured prominently in the dialogue with the Iraqi and US authorities; by year-end, one US-run facility was still operating.

Detainees and internees, mainly those held in US facilities, restored or maintained contact with their families through the Iraqi Red Crescent/ICRC via RCMs. Foreign nationals were repatriated voluntarily after their release, under ICRC auspices, as were the remains of a Saudi national who had died in prison. Former detainees and internees received ICRC detention certificates enabling them to apply for social welfare benefits.

Some 7,000 detainees held by the Iraqi central and Kurdistan regional governments benefited from direct support provided by the ICRC, including blankets, winter clothes and hygiene kits, as well as games, books and, for 17,000 of them, Ramadan treats.

People held by Iraqi federal authorities

Dialogue with the detaining authorities was expanded, focusing on ICRC access to all detainees and respect for judicial guarantees. At an ICRC workshop in Basra, 19 judges and prosecutors discussed in particular the use in courts of confessions obtained under duress.

Discussions regarding detainees' living conditions in some cases led to better access to open air spaces, improved cell conditions and more frequent family visits.

Prison health services received ICRC technical and material assistance, including drugs, medical equipment and advice on scabies treatment. Detainee health care improved significantly in two federal prisons in northern Iraq thanks to closer cooperation between the prison and local health authorities to address shortcomings together with the ICRC, including services for disabled detainees. Similar cooperation was being encouraged regarding health projects in the Rusafa and Fort Suse prisons.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM	IRAQ CENTRAL GOVERNMENT	IRAQ KURDISTAN REGIONAL	UNITED STATES
ICRC visits			
Detainees visited ¹	23,126	3,559	6,116
Detainees visited and monitored individually	807	482	550
<i>of whom women</i>	52	11	
<i>of whom minors</i>	18	6	
Detainees newly registered	323	237	353
<i>of whom women</i>	23	6	
<i>of whom minors</i>	16	5	
Number of visits carried out	118	105	5
Number of places of detention visited	37	40	4
Restoring family links			
RCMs collected	8,232	62	
RCMs distributed	9,130	24	
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	24	38	
Detainees released and transferred/repatriated by/via the ICRC	10	2	
People to whom a detention attestation was issued	1,292	293	

1. All detainees notified by the authorities and followed up by the ICRC

In detention places run by the Iraqi Correctional Service, measures were taken to address overcrowding and accelerate medical referral. Some 1,400 detainees in Baghdad and Hilla benefited from projects to install air conditioners and refurbish the sewage system. Joint assessments conducted with the ICRC in 11 prisons countrywide led to the preparation of infrastructure projects.

People held by the Kurdistan regional government

The dialogue with the Kurdish authorities helped improve ICRC access to detainees as well as respect for judicial guarantees in some areas, as confirmed by interviews with 100 detainees. The Kurdish regional judicial council issued specific instructions to its members to respect such guarantees, including the right to legal counsel after arrest. This led to a review of the cases of several detainees under death sentence. The authorities also pardoned some detainees who had long been held without trial. The need to clarify the whereabouts of people allegedly arrested and to inform their families was taken up at the highest level.

The authorities acted on ICRC recommendations regarding overcrowding and the detention regime in specific cases. Discussions continued with police on conditions of detention and treatment in some police stations.

WOUNDED AND SICK

Improved Ministry of Health supplies and fewer casualties meant a decrease in hospitals' need for ICRC emergency supplies. However, following armed violence, 23 hospitals provided emergency services in part thanks to the supply of ICRC medical and surgical materials. The 4 ICRC-supported hospitals that provided data treated 3,733 wounded patients.

As part of the project to strengthen emergency services in Iraq, run jointly by the Iraqi central and Kurdistan regional governments and the ICRC in the Najaf and Sulaymaniyah referral hospitals, 335 medical staff completed courses in emergency services, trauma management and infection control, bringing to 579 the number of health professionals certified by the programme since its start in 2009.

Conditions improved in several hospitals (total capacity: 5,623 beds) thanks to the upgrading of infrastructure and basic services by the ICRC; 143 hospital maintenance teams received training. Two major Baghdad hospitals suffering from water shortages relied on daily ICRC water-trucking. In all, 128 patients at the Al Rashad psychiatric hospital in Baghdad participated on a monthly basis in an ICRC-supported occupational therapy programme.

More than 31,622 physically disabled people received care at the 10 ICRC-supported rehabilitation centres in the country, including 8 run by the Ministry of Health in Baghdad, Basra, Fallujah, Hilla, Najaf and Tikrit, and two operated in Erbil by the ICRC and by a local NGO. The centres and three crutch-production units in Baghdad, Basra and Erbil used ICRC-supplied materials and received regular maintenance and staff training. Work progressed

on the construction of a new centre in Nassiriyah, intended to meet the growing demand for limb-fitting services.

Iraq's Prosthetics/Orthotics School continued to receive ICRC support and its teachers' skills stood to benefit from a budding partnership with a Scottish university.

AUTHORITIES

Iraq acceded to Additional Protocol I, drawing on ICRC expertise. Otherwise, dialogue with the central, regional and local authorities focused on IHL and the ICRC's mandate and activities (see *Civilians* and *People deprived of their freedom*).

Regular bilateral and multilateral meetings between the ICRC and UN agencies and other humanitarian organizations active in Iraq ensured coordination in fields of common interest. These organizations as well as the diplomatic community in Iraq received regular briefings and information on ICRC activities in the country.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The central and regional armed and security forces maintained a constructive dialogue with the ICRC on training in IHL and its incorporation into their training manuals and operating procedures. They were also briefed on the ICRC's mandate and activities.

Over 1,000 officers of the armed and security forces attended briefing sessions familiarizing them with the ICRC's mandate and activities, as well as humanitarian concerns. The sessions were mostly held in areas controlled by the Kurdistan regional government, given security constraints elsewhere in the country. For the first time, they included staff of the Kirkuk military division and two Peshmerga brigades deployed in the disputed areas. Senior officers increased their IHL knowledge at three workshops co-organized by the National Defence University, the armed forces' Training and Doctrine Command and the ICRC, and legal advisers from selected infantry divisions participated in an IHL seminar. Instructors at the Centre for Military Values enhanced their IHL teaching capacities at a train-the-trainer workshop; military training facilities received IHL reference materials.

Five high-ranking officers attended ICRC-sponsored IHL training in San Remo, including one who was subsequently appointed to chair a military commission tasked with overseeing the integration of IHL into the combined Peshmerga forces. Additionally, one military judge attended the Geneva Centre for Security Policy course, while another Iraqi officer, now based at the Baghdad Operation Command, attended the Senior Workshop on International Rules governing Military Operations, held in Switzerland (see *International Law and Cooperation*).

Dialogue with the United States Forces-Iraq continued at all levels, both in Iraq and the United States of America.

CIVIL SOCIETY

International and local media reported on ICRC activities and the enduring humanitarian consequences of the conflict in Iraq, based on regular briefings of journalists and ICRC information materials. Journalism students learnt more about these issues at a seminar held in Sulaymaniyah. Contacts were expanded with the large network of NGOs concerned with women's issues, particularly in view of ICRC activities for women (see *Civilians*).

Religious scholars from the Kurdistan region, Kirkuk and Mosul attended an ICRC conference on IHL and Islam in Dohuk, aimed at fostering dialogue on the ICRC's neutral, impartial and independent action. Regular meetings with tribal leaders from southern, northern and central Iraq provided opportunities to familiarize them with the ICRC's mandate, to enhance mutual understanding and discuss humanitarian issues, as well as to facilitate the movements and work of ICRC staff. Academics from eight universities increased their knowledge of IHL and ICRC activities in Iraq during a series of lectures.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Iraqi Red Crescent and the ICRC signed a partnership framework agreement confirming and strengthening their operational cooperation in the fields of restoring family links, mine-risk education and data gathering (see *Civilians* and *People deprived of their freedom*), and the promotion of the National Society's visual identity. As part of cooperation activities, a high-frequency radio network was installed in 11 governorates, the Iraqi Red Crescent received 157 first-aid kits and 30 National Society staff honed their dissemination/communication skills at an ICRC workshop.

The Iraqi Red Crescent continued to receive institutional support and guidance from the ICRC and the International Federation aimed at strengthening its legal and statutory base.