

# IRAQ



## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection	16,645
Assistance	37,831
Prevention	7,679
Cooperation with National Societies	2,428
General	-

► **64,583**

of which: Overheads 3,919

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	75%
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## PERSONNEL

Expatriates	104
National staff (daily workers not included)	691

## KEY POINTS

### In 2011, the ICRC:

- monitored the treatment and living conditions of some 36,000 detainees during 298 visits to 98 places of detention
- by acting as a neutral intermediary, contributed to progress made in clarifying the fate of people missing since the 1990–91 Gulf War and the 1980–88 Iran-Iraq war, facilitating joint operations to exhume and repatriate human remains
- together with local water boards, increased access to water and sanitation facilities for approximately 6.8 million people, including IDPs living in host communities and group settlements
- improved basic health care for 235,000 people and specialized care for 31,077 people with disabilities through support to 8 primary health care and 12 physical rehabilitation centres respectively
- provided emergency relief to over 80,000 individuals, while empowering 63,776 people to improve their livelihoods through community-based agricultural inputs and grants
- helped the Iraqi Red Crescent Society boost its capacities in emergency preparedness and response, first aid, family links and mine-risk education, thereby strengthening the operational partnership

The ICRC has been present in Iraq since the outbreak of the Iran-Iraq war in 1980. Protection activities focus on people detained by the Iraqi government, the Kurdistan regional authorities and the US forces in Iraq and on efforts to restore contact between separated relatives 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

In 2011, Iraq remained wracked by instability: spikes in violence affected large swathes of the country, especially the central and northern areas disputed by the Iraqi central and Kurdistan regional governments, with hundreds killed or injured in security incidents every month. Shelling along the border shared with the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey displaced hundreds of civilians.

Ongoing tensions between various political, religious and ethnic groups weakened the central government. In spite of the improved economic situation, public services remained poor, particularly in remote and disputed areas. Because of this, many communities and groups of people, including IDPs and households headed by women after male breadwinners had been killed, imprisoned or had gone missing, remained vulnerable. Social tensions also prompted large demonstrations in several cities.

The transfer of the remaining detainees in US custody to the Iraqi authorities took place at the end of the year and the last US military troops left Iraq in December. The Iraqi federal and Kurdish regional authorities were also holding thousands of people, mainly charged with acts of terrorism or offences related to political or sectarian violence, putting pressure on the overburdened judicial and detention systems.

There were also tensions throughout the year between residents of Camp Ashraf, home to several thousands of members of the Mojahedin Khalq group, and the Iraqi authorities.

## ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The ICRC in Iraq increased its ability to reach people affected by conflict or violence and respond to their needs. Despite volatile security conditions, the delegation extended its presence in disputed and violence-prone areas and generally implemented its activities as planned, although sometimes with delays.

Communication and networking were ongoing with authorities, armed groups and community and religious leaders to foster acceptance of IHL, to obtain guarantees of safe access to populations for the delivery of humanitarian aid and to encourage the implementation of the necessary legislation and services. Such efforts included briefings and other events on IHL-related issues. The delegation also adapted and produced material for regular meetings to encourage national and international media coverage of humanitarian issues.

Main figures and indicators	PROTECTION	Total		
<b>CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)</b>				
<b>Red Cross messages (RCMs)</b>				
RCMs collected		451	UAMs/SCs*	
RCMs distributed		437		
<b>Reunifications, transfers and repatriations</b>				
People transferred/repatriated		10		
Human remains transferred/repatriated		21		
<b>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons<sup>1</sup></b>				
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		177	Women	Minors
People located (tracing cases closed positively)		98		
	<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	1		
Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2011 (people)		2,459	21	98
<b>Documents</b>				
People to whom travel documents were issued		65		
Official documents relayed between family members across borders/front lines		28		
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b>				
<b>ICRC visits</b>				
Detainees visited <sup>2</sup>		36,094	Women	Minors
Detainees visited and monitored individually		1,392	45	15
Detainees newly registered		532	8	11
Number of visits carried out		298		
Number of places of detention visited		98		
<b>Restoring family links</b>				
RCMs collected		1,004		
RCMs distributed		912		
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative		157		
Detainees released and transferred/repatriated by/via the ICRC		12		
People to whom a detention attestation was issued		3,093		

\* 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

Main figures and indicators	ASSISTANCE	Total	Women	Children
<b>CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)</b>				
<b>Economic security, water and habitat</b>				
Food	Beneficiaries	80,445	22%	58%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	80,445		
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	80,745	26%	49%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	80,745		
Agricultural, veterinary and other micro-economic initiatives	Beneficiaries	63,776	25%	50%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	16,713		
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	6,789,956	30%	39%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	14,000		
<b>Health</b>				
Health centres supported	Structures	8		
Average catchment population		235,000		
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b>				
<b>Economic security, water and habitat</b>				
Food	Beneficiaries	3,419		
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	11,298		
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	4,799		
<b>WOUNDED AND SICK</b>				
<b>Water and habitat</b>				
Water and habitat activities	Number of beds	2,445		
<b>Physical rehabilitation</b>				
Centres supported	Structures	12		
Patients receiving services	Patients	31,077	3,850	9,536
New patients fitted with prostheses	Patients	1,139	167	27
Prostheses delivered	Units	2,902	332	86
	<i>of which for victims of mines or explosive remnants of war</i>	627		
New patients fitted with orthoses	Patients	7,867	1,114	4,990
Orthoses delivered	Units	13,462	1,506	9,639
	<i>of which for victims of mines or explosive remnants of war</i>	11		
Crutches delivered	Units	1,453		
Wheelchairs delivered	Units	88		

Assistance programmes targeted the most affected people, such as IDPs and households headed by women, in remote and violence-ridden areas, often left with poor public services. While responding to the urgent needs of people displaced by violence or natural disaster, the ICRC focused on restoring livelihoods and, through

cooperation with relevant local structures, fostered local ownership and long-term sustainability.

All activities to ensure safe access to a reliable water supply, for example, involved the local water boards and technical training

of their staff. Some 10,500 households, including those headed by women and disabled people, improved their livelihoods by participating in various initiatives such as the setting up of businesses with the help of grants. Work with the authorities and local NGOs resulted in more women receiving direct support in processing their applications to integrate into the State welfare system.

Eight primary health care centres in disputed territories and the south received structural and material support, improving access of 235,000 people, women and children in particular, to better health care services. The training of 200 doctors and nurses in trauma care marked the end of the three-year project to strengthen emergency services in Iraq, run with the Iraqi central and Kurdistan regional governments in two referral hospitals. Physical rehabilitation centres across the country continued to provide necessary services, mobility devices and care for a growing number of disabled people.

The ICRC visited over 36,000 detainees held by the Iraqi and Kurdish authorities and US forces. Confidential dialogue continued with the detaining authorities on detainees' treatment and living conditions. Delegates paid special attention to respect for fundamental judicial guarantees and to post-transfer responsibilities pertaining to detainees handed over from US to Iraqi custody. Infrastructure rehabilitation undertaken in cooperation with the Iraqi authorities led to some 4,800 inmates enjoying better water and sanitation facilities. Prison health services received ICRC technical and material assistance.

With the ICRC acting as a neutral intermediary, the parties concerned made progress in clarifying the fate of people missing since the 1980–88 Iran–Iraq war and the 1990–91 Gulf War (see *Islamic Republic of Iran* and *Kuwait*). The Al-Zubair Centre in Basra received equipment to deal with the large amount of information in its possession on people unaccounted for.

The ICRC and the Iraqi Red Crescent Society pursued their operational partnership. Together, they ran family-links services, notably between detainees and family members. With ICRC support, the Iraqi Red Crescent developed its programme to raise awareness of mines and explosive remnants of war and boosted other capacities, particularly in emergency preparedness and response and first aid.

The ICRC continued to coordinate with other humanitarian organizations and NGOs operating in Iraq to maximize cooperation and avoid duplication or gaps in services, programmes and aid.

## CIVILIANS

Meetings with the relevant parties and authorities regularly focused on the effects of armed conflict and other situations of violence on the civilian population. Specifically, the ICRC sought respect for rules on the conduct of hostilities following documented casualties resulting from shelling and air strikes in northern Iraq. It engaged the authorities in dialogue on the use of force during and after a confrontation in April between security forces and Camp Ashraf residents and before mass demonstrations in several cities. Other issues of concern, such as the welfare of IDPs and households headed by women, regularly filled the agenda at meetings.

### **People have their urgent needs addressed and regain self-sufficiency**

In disputed areas, people affected by outbreaks of violence or natural disasters benefited from emergency assistance, while vulnerable communities received direct support to restore their livelihoods.

The 80,445 beneficiaries (13,197 households) of emergency relief (food rations and essential household items) included some 10,000 households in camps and group settlements, mainly in disputed areas, and vulnerable people (orphans and households headed by women in Mosul and Kirkuk), who received one-off winter and Ramadan assistance respectively. IDPs who had to move because of violence in Baghdad and Mosul, heavy floods in remote areas of Ninewa and Salah Al-Din or shelling in the northern border area benefited from similar assistance.

The farmers from neglected or violence-prone areas who benefited from livelihood support in 2010 reported a 20–30% increase in income, allowing them to cover their basic food needs. Building on this success, 9,213 additional households (57,433 people, including 16,713 IDPs) in rural areas benefited from 37 new community-based projects, including the construction of drip-irrigation systems, the provision of greenhouses, seed and fertilizer and the cleaning of irrigation canals.

As the main breadwinners of their households (4,531 people in total), 375 disabled people and 463 women started their own small businesses with the help of grants. They thus increased their income by 40–80%, enhancing their self-sufficiency and restoring their roles in the community.

Furthermore, after an assessment concluded at the end of 2010, the approach to assisting vulnerable women to increase their independence was revised to focus on helping them integrate into the State welfare system. This included: coordinating with the Directorate for Women; promoting implementation of the welfare allowance system; collaborating with local NGOs to help women follow up their applications; and providing the women with cash allowances for six months while their cases were being processed. A round-table discussion and several meetings gave all those involved the opportunity to step up their commitments to the process. After the initial implementation of the programme in two areas of Anbar and Baghdad, 453 women heading households (1,812 people) started receiving cash allowances.

### **Water supply and health care improve in rural areas**

With emphasis on remote areas where the population's needs were most acute, ICRC-led rehabilitation of water treatment and distribution facilities and sewage pumping stations made 6.8 million people, including IDPs within host communities, less vulnerable to disease. Some 14,000 living in camps or group settlements and in Sadr City had clean water trucked in, although more sustainable solutions were under discussion. All projects involved the authorities and local communities so that facilities could be managed autonomously. This entailed training 195 technicians and working with maintenance teams, including those in hospitals (see *Wounded and sick*).

An estimated 235,000 inhabitants, including IDPs, accessed improved health care services as a result of ICRC support in strengthening professional capacities and management in eight Ministry of Health-run primary health care centres. Women and children, especially, had better access to curative care following improvements in hygiene and safety precautions, drug management and the treatment and transfer of emergency cases. Significant structural upgrades were made to four of the centres.

## Contaminated land cleared

More than 28,000 civilians learnt about the dangers of weapon contamination through 367 Iraqi Red Crescent awareness-raising sessions supported by the ICRC. Some 13,550 civilians in nine communities in Missan province enjoyed a safer environment after 947 pieces of ordnance were cleared during operations carried out in coordination with local authorities, the National Society and the Regional Mine Action Centre.

## Families receive news from relatives

With the ICRC acting as a neutral intermediary, the parties concerned made progress in clarifying the fate of persons missing since the 1980–88 Iran-Iraq war (see *Islamic Republic of Iran*) and the 1990–91 Gulf War (see *Kuwait*). Joint exhumation operations were carried out to identify and repatriate recovered human remains.

As a result of joint Ministry of Human Rights and ICRC support, the Al-Zubair Centre in Basra improved its capacity to manage data on people unaccounted for from the aforementioned conflicts. Defining a related legal framework, however, needed more work. The Baghdad Medico-Legal Institute had its second autopsy room upgraded, while 27 staff members strengthened their skills during a forensic anthropology course and 19 specialists attended training in exhumation.

People restored links with family members and received news, notably from detained relatives and those affected by the Libyan armed conflict, through Iraqi Red Crescent/ICRC RCM services. Under ICRC auspices, Iraqis made a third annual visit to relatives detained since 1991 in Kuwait (see *Kuwait*). Ten Iranian nationals from Camp Ashraf had their voluntary repatriation facilitated by the ICRC, while two resettled in a third country. In coordination with the authorities concerned, 65 people received ICRC travel documents allowing them to move to third countries. In view of the many migrants in the Najaf-Kerbala region, the Iraqi Red Crescent and the ICRC launched an assessment of their family-links needs.

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

People in the custody of the Iraqi central government, the Kurdistan regional government and the US Forces-Iraq continued to receive visits from the ICRC, conducted according to its standard procedures. Specific attention was paid to the situation and judicial rights of detainees being transferred to Iraqi custody before and following the closure of the last US detention facilities in November. Overall, some 36,000 detainees held in 98 facilities were visited and 1,392 of them were monitored individually. After the visits, the relevant authorities received confidential feedback on the detainees' treatment and living conditions.

They were reminded of internationally recognized standards and laws relating to detention, such as the right to have detainees' families informed of their whereabouts and to communicate with them, to be protected against ill-treatment and to have their judicial guarantees respected. The extent to which individuals were accorded such guarantees was assessed and findings were discussed with local and central judicial authorities. The ICRC did this without passing judgement on the specific reasons for the arrest.

The detaining authorities received advice on issues such as overcrowding, access to open spaces and construction and rehabilitation projects. Through direct support, the living conditions of some 4,800 inmates improved following rehabilitation of infrastructure in seven detention facilities. This included the installation of water purification units and the repair of a prison clinic. Some 11,298 detainees also received blankets, mattresses, clothes and books.

Prison health services received ICRC technical and material assistance in providing health care for detainees, including disabled inmates. More work was needed to improve cooperation between detaining and health authorities and to ensure that more juveniles and women had access to educational and vocational activities.

Detainees were also able to maintain and restore contact with relatives through Iraqi Red Crescent/ICRC RCM services. Foreign detainees received better assistance from their consular representatives and, after their release, from the Iraqi government, while 12 of them were voluntarily repatriated to their home countries under ICRC auspices. Former detainees/internees received ICRC detention certificates enabling them to apply for social welfare benefits and to undertake various administrative procedures.

## WOUNDED AND SICK

In light of the government's commitment to addressing the needs of medical institutions in emergencies, hospitals received only limited medical support from the ICRC. The project to strengthen emergency services in the country, run jointly by the Iraqi central and Kurdistan regional governments and the ICRC in the Najaf and Sulaymaniyah referral hospitals, was completed in November, with training held for 200 doctors and nurses in 2011. Since the project's inception in 2009, 302 doctors and 546 nurses from 91 hospitals had received training in the ABCDE algorithm of trauma care, as well as in teamwork, basic and advanced life support, universal precautions, triage and standard responses to mass casualty situations. All the training resources were compiled on a DVD for quick dissemination and further use by the health authorities.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM	IRAQ CENTRAL GOVERNMENT	IRAQ KURDISTAN REGIONAL	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
<b>ICRC visits</b>			
Detainees visited	32,275	3,763	56
Detainees visited and monitored individually	898	439	55
	<i>of whom women</i>	8	
	<i>of whom minors</i>	7	
Detainees newly registered	327	153	52
	<i>of whom women</i>	2	
	<i>of whom minors</i>	6	
Number of visits carried out	199	96	3
Number of places of detention visited	53	42	3
<b>Restoring family links</b>			
RCMs collected	956	48	
RCMs distributed	889	23	
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	68	89	
Detainees released and transferred/repatriated by/via the ICRC	9	3	
People to whom a detention attestation was issued	2,132	221	

Conditions improved in five hospitals (total capacity: 2,455 beds) following infrastructure rehabilitation. The upgrades included improvements to the Baghdad Al-Rashad Psychiatric Hospital's sanitation facilities and a new pharmacy in the Mosul Al-Jamoury Hospital to enhance the hospital's drug storage capacity. In Al-Rashad Hospital, patients also benefited from occupational therapy thanks to ICRC support.

In all, 31,077 people with disabilities received care at 12 ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centres; the most vulnerable patients had their transportation and accommodation costs paid for during their treatment. All centres and three crutch-production units functioned with ICRC-provided raw materials and regular maintenance, technical support and staff training. Iraq's Prosthetic/Orthotic School continued to receive technical help, while sponsored technicians attended training abroad, including at a Scottish university. In monthly meetings attended by the ICRC, the health and education authorities worked on a long-term approach to the provision of physical rehabilitation.

### **AUTHORITIES**

Networking and contact with the national authorities increased significantly after the formation of the Iraqi government in December 2010. Dialogue established with the parliament and legal advisers from various ministries focused on IHL implementation and the creation of a national IHL committee. In an effort to increase acceptance and security of ICRC operations, regular meetings with and briefings of authorities and other political actors took place at the central, regional and local levels. They focused on the ICRC's mandate, activities, working methods and particularly on the protection of people deprived of their freedom and on assistance programmes, such as help for women heading households. Such meetings also served to raise support for efforts to encourage parliament to ratify an agreement formalizing the ICRC's presence in Iraq.

Regular bilateral and multilateral meetings with humanitarian organizations strengthened 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**

Central and local armed and security forces of the Iraqi central government and the Kurdistan regional government maintained a constructive dialogue with the ICRC on IHL, international human rights law and the ICRC's operations in Iraq, focusing particularly on the organization's work for people deprived of their freedom and its standard visiting procedures.

Some 1,400 members of the Iraqi security forces, including those in disputed areas, attended dissemination sessions, while three police officers (from the federal and Kurdistan forces) attended IHL training in San Remo. Dialogue also developed on the integration of IHL into the doctrines, training programmes and sanctions systems of the various forces. Overall, 37 Iraqi Army officers were able to conduct their own IHL sessions following a train-the-trainer workshop and 17 legal advisers and 30 senior members of the Ministry of Defence better understood how to integrate IHL into military operations after attending seminars on the topic. Information and training sessions also helped the newly formed Kurdistan military committee start its work.

Networking with direct and indirect representatives of armed groups also deepened acceptance of the ICRC and enabled it to advocate for the protection due to civilians and medical services.

Dialogue with the US Forces-Iraq continued both in Iraq and in the United States of America, focusing on the transfer of detainees to Iraqi jurisdiction and the rule of law.

### **CIVIL SOCIETY**

Religious and tribal leaders increased their understanding of the ICRC's mandate and activities through continuous dialogue. Workshops with prominent Sunni and Shiite religious leaders held in Khanaqin, Kirkuk and Najaf, with the support of an ICRC Islamic law adviser, helped expand access to conflict-affected areas.

International and local media reported on ICRC activities on the basis of regular briefings and material found on the organization's Arabic-language website. Specific events (such as a press conference in Baghdad and fast-breaking evening meals with influential figures in Kirkuk and Najaf) strengthened media coverage and understanding of ICRC operations and humanitarian concerns.

Journalism students learnt more about humanitarian issues at a seminar held at Dohuk Technical College, while academics and students from all over Iraq became acquainted with the ICRC during a series of lectures. Several NGOs, particularly those working for women, reinforced their cooperation with the ICRC.

Over 4,000 current and potential beneficiaries of ICRC assistance and rehabilitation activities (see *Civilians*) attended information sessions on the organization's work, specifically in Kirkuk and northern and central Iraq.

### **RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

In line with the partnership framework agreement signed in 2011, the Iraqi Red Crescent and the ICRC strengthened their operational cooperation (see *Civilians*), whereby the National Society received support in promoting its visual identity and boosting its capacities in emergency preparedness and response, first aid, restoring family links and mine-risk education.

After initial joint assessments of its existing capacities in first aid and emergency preparedness, the National Society started developing an internal first-aid policy and discussing with national and local authorities its role in providing first aid. Branches strengthened their first-aid services through the training and equipping of volunteers. Six staff members achieved instructor status through train-the-trainer courses. Twenty heads of disaster management sections consolidated their knowledge during an assessment training course; four of them were selected as regional trainers and two as training coordinators. Communication staff attended two workshops to develop skills enabling them to conduct dissemination and communication activities autonomously.

The National Society also expanded its high-frequency radio network to connect all branches and headquarters, making communications easier.

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