



Basra – With ICRC's help, Kamla started a small brick-making business to support her family, after the death of her husband.

Ed Ou/Getty Images/ICRC

IRAQ: FACTS AND FIGURES

JANUARY – DECEMBER 2011

OVERVIEW

Over the past year, ongoing violence took a heavy toll on civilians in Iraq. The population continued to carry the humanitarian burden of decades of conflict, which have left tens of thousands of families seeking to know the fate of their missing relatives, and made Iraq one of the countries most heavily contaminated by unexploded munitions worldwide. Access to public services, such as clean water and proper healthcare, also remained a challenge for too many Iraqis, especially in rural and conflict-prone areas.

In 2011, the ICRC increased the scope of its humanitarian activities in areas most affected by the conflict and other violence, notably in the disputed territories and in Central Iraq. It assisted vulnerable people and communities: those include women heading households, persons living with a disability, needy farmers, and internally displaced people. Supporting the Iraqi authorities in their efforts to clarify the fate of the missing continued to be a priority for the ICRC, as was monitoring of conditions of detention and treatment persons deprived of freedom receive. The ICRC also focused on strengthening

health and physical rehabilitation services, improving access to clean water, clearing land from unexploded munitions, and responding to humanitarian emergencies. The ICRC remained committed to preventing further suffering by promoting respect for International humanitarian law (IHL) among decision makers and weapon bearers.

In 2012, the ICRC will pursue its humanitarian activities in favour of the Iraqi population, as it has been doing continuously since the outbreak of the Iran – Iraq war in 1980. To be able to do so, it will maintain its dialogue with all parties. It will also keep on giving voice to and assisting the people most in need without distinction on any grounds other than humanitarian ones.

The organization works from its delegation in Baghdad, its sub-delegations in Baghdad, Erbil, Najaf and Kirkuk, its offices in Basra, Sulaimaniya, Dohuk and Ramadi, and its antennas in Amara, Nasiriya and Khanaqin. The ICRC delegation in Iraq has some 800 staff, including 700 Iraqi nationals.



ICRC

SUPPORTING THE AUTHORITIES IN THEIR EFFORTS TO CLARIFY THE FATE OF THE MISSING



Basra – The human remains of Iraqi soldiers killed during the 1990 – 1991 war are brought back home.

The ICRC supports the Iraqi authorities –mainly the Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR) and the Medico-Legal Institute of the Ministry of Health– in their efforts to clarify the fate of the tens of thousands still unaccounted for as a result of the Iran-Iraq War and the 1990-1991 Gulf War, and to provide answers to their families. This support includes facilitating dialogue and exchange of information between the parties, forensic training, rehabilitation of facilities, joint exhumation missions in the field, and handover of human remains.

In 2011, the ICRC:

- facilitated 2 joint Iran – Iraq missions on Iraqi soil to locate and exhume human remains;
- facilitated 3 Iraq – Kuwait missions: two exploratory missions in Iraq, and 1 exhumation mission in Kuwait;
- facilitated repatriation of the remains of 128 Iraqi soldiers from Iran,

and of 32 from Kuwait; during the same period the remains of 20 Iranian soldiers were handed over to the Iranian authorities;

- chaired 15 meetings bringing together representatives of Iraq and of the various parties involved in past armed conflicts, during which the necessary steps to clarify the fate of missing persons were discussed;
- trained 40 experts involved in the recovery of human remains; in addition, 2 Iraqi specialists attended a 10-day course on forensic genetics in the United Kingdom.

The ICRC also rehabilitated a second autopsy room at the Medico-Legal Institute in Baghdad, and provided it with specialized publications. In cooperation with the MoHR, it also helped Al Zubair Centre in Basra enhance its technical capacities, through equipment donations.

CLEARING UNEXPLODED MUNITIONS FROM LAND WHERE CIVILIANS ARE AT RISK

Iraq is littered with more than 25 million mines and other explosive remnants of war, in particular along the borders with Iran and Turkey. As a result, the safety and livelihood of more than 1,6 million Iraqis are at risk.

In 2010, the ICRC launched a program to reduce the impact of unexploded ordnance on the civilian population. As from July that year, its weapon contamination specialists started clearing unexploded munitions in Missan governorate, one of the worst affected areas in Iraq.

Since then, the ICRC team has removed over 2500 pieces of unexploded ordnance in 30 communities inhabited by more than 23,000 people in the districts of Qalat Saleh, Al Kahla, Al-Maimouna and Al-Mejar Al-Kabir. The ICRC is the sole humanitarian organization involved in community-level clearance activities in the governorate.

ACTING IN FAVOUR OF PERSONS DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC visits places of detention with the aim of assessing and discussing confidentially with the authorities in charge the conditions in which detainees are being held, the treatment they receive, respect for judicial guarantees and access to proper health care. In 2011, a total of 298 such visits were conducted to 98 places of detention where people were held by the Iraqi central authorities, the Kurdish regional authorities, and US Forces in Iraq (USF-I) until they handed over detainees in their custody to the Iraqi authorities.

In 2011, ICRC staff visited:

- more than 32,000 detainees held under the authority of the Iraqi Ministries of Justice, Defence, Interior and Labour and Social Affairs,

RESTORING CONTACTS BETWEEN DETAINEES AND THEIR FAMILIES

Visits carried out to persons deprived of their liberty also allow detainees to restore or maintain contact with their families by exchanging news through Red Cross messages. These messages are collected and delivered in cooperation with Iraqi Red Crescent Society volunteers.

In 2011:

- over 2,800 messages were exchanged;
- more than 13,000 phone calls from families looking for a detained or missing relative were processed.

The ICRC also issued over 60 travel documents to persons without passports, mainly refugees, who were granted resettlement in a third country. At the request of their families, it also attempted to locate nearly 170 persons, including Iraqis living in Libya with whom contact was lost as a result of the armed conflict.

of whom nearly 900 were monitored individually;

- more than 3,700 detainees held at the behest of the Kurdistan regional authorities, of whom over 400 were monitored individually;
- about 700 women in prisons under the authority of the Ministry of Justice and over 1,000 minors in juvenile detention facilities, including 41 women and 8 minors who were monitored individually.

Some 11,600 detainees were provided with items such as blankets, mattresses, clothes or books. More than 2,300 former detainees received detention certificates enabling them to undertake various administrative steps. The ICRC also helped repatriate 12 released foreign detainees.

BOOSTING THE PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY OF RURAL COMMUNITIES

The ICRC helps needy residents and returnees in rural areas affected by violence to improve their livelihoods by increasing their agricultural production in a sustainable way and helping them restock their herds. In 2011, almost 57,500 people in total benefited from community-based livelihood support projects:

- 1,357 needy farmers received 298 tonnes of fertilizer, 89 tonnes of seed and 431 greenhouses in Salah Al-Din, Anbar, Diyala, Baghdad, Wasit, Babil and Kerbala;
- some 960 farmers in Diyala, Baghdad, Wasit, Babil and Anbar were provided with drip irrigation systems benefiting about 6,000 people, and training was provided to install and maintain the systems;
- 277 kilometres of irrigation canals were upgraded, while 170 hectares of agricultural lands were reclaimed by labourers as part of a cash-for-work scheme in Baghdad, Diyala, Dohuk and Wasit;
- some 190,000 animals, belonging to around 2,600 farmers in Ninawa and Diyala, were vaccinated to protect them from diseases.

BRINGING RELIEF ASSISTANCE TO IDPs AND VULNERABLE RESIDENTS

Many Iraqi people are still struggling to earn a living and support their families. The ICRC provides them with assistance, focusing on the persons most in need in violence-prone and remote rural areas.

In 2011:

- some 12,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) received emergency assistance in the form of food, hygiene kits and essential household items, including:
 - 6,140 people affected by the heavy floods in Ninawa and Salah al-Din;
 - 2,821 persons who had to flee their homes as a result of the shelling in the Northern border areas;
 - 1,875 people displaced by internal violence in Baghdad and Mosul.
- over 61,000 IDPs in camps and group settlements benefited from a one-off winter distribution of food, hygiene and household items in ten governorates;
- almost 7,600 orphans, women heading households, and other people in need received food and hygiene items on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan, notably in Mosul, Kirkuk and Baghdad.



Dohuk – The ICRC provides relief assistance to internally displaced people.

STRENGTHENING HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Health care services in some rural and conflict-prone areas still have difficulty meeting the needs of the civilian population. In coordination with the Iraqi health authorities, the ICRC renovates and upgrades facilities, and helps strengthen medical services through training in emergency management and war surgery.

In 2011:

- 207 doctors and nurses were certified through the training project intended to strengthen emergency services in Iraq. In all, 900 health

personnel from 91 hospitals in 18 governorates have been trained since the launching of the program in 2009;

- 9 primary health care centres in Ninawa, Kirkuk, Diyala, Diwaniya, Talafar, Babil and Najaf governorates, serving an estimated 230,000 inhabitants, benefited from ICRC on-site support aimed at enhancing the quality and provision of medical services;
- patients at Al-Rashad psychiatric hospital in Baghdad benefited from creative and recreational activities through ICRC occupational therapy support projects.



Makhmour – The ICRC provides on-site support to the primary health care centre, as it does for 8 other centres in Iraq.

HELPING PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY TO RESUME A NORMAL LIFE

Since 1993, the ICRC has provided limb-fitting and physical rehabilitation services to 35,000 disabled people in Iraq, helping them reintegrate into the community. The organization runs its own center in Erbil, and supports, through equipment donations and training, 9 centers run by the Iraqi Ministry of Health in Nasiriya, Tikrit, Hilla, Najaf, Falluja, Basra and Baghdad, and one by the Ministry of Defence, in Baghdad. It also supports the Iraqi school for prosthetics and orthotics, and a workshop that manufactures crutches in Baghdad.

In 2011:

- 31,077 patients, including 15,833 amputees, were provided with physical rehabilitation services;
- 2,902 prostheses, 13,462 orthoses, 88 wheelchairs and 1,453 crutches were delivered;
- 37 prosthetic and orthotic technicians, 45 physiotherapists and 12

benchworkers benefited from training courses;

- 5 Iraqi orthopaedic technicians were sponsored to attend internationally recognized courses in prosthetics and orthotics in Cambodia, Tanzania and Scotland.

The ICRC also supports disabled people heading households who are willing to launch an income-generating activity. The aim is not only to help them care for their families, but also to restore their dignity by making them feel useful and needed again.

In 2011:

- 375 micro-economic initiatives, such as grocery, mobile phones and barber shops, beekeeping enterprises and car repair workshops, were launched, benefiting almost 2,400 people in Diyala, Ninawa, Kirkuk and Sulaimaniya.

PROMOTING RESPECT FOR 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 (IHL). In Iraq, ICRC staff regularly holds information sessions on IHL for government officials, weapon bearers, community leaders, religious leaders, tribal leaders, journalists, academics, and Iraqi Red Crescent Society staff and volunteers.

In 2011, workshops on Islam and International humanitarian law were held for religious scholars in Najaf, Kirkuk and Khanaqin. Academic institutions all over Iraq were supported in their efforts to develop the teaching of IHL. The ICRC also supported the efforts of the Iraqi authorities to set up a National IHL commission.

Almost 1,800 members of the security forces (army and police) attended information sessions and workshops on IHL, in areas where the ICRC is carrying out its activities. 37 officers of the Iraqi army benefited from a train-the-trainers workshop, while 17 legal advisers and 30 senior staff of the Ministry of Defence attended a seminar on the integration of IHL into the doctrine, education, training and system of sanctions of the Iraqi Army. An army officer took part in the ICRC senior workshop on international rules governing military operations, in South Africa, while three officers from the Federal Police, Assayesh and Peshmerga went to an IHL course in Italy.



Babil – A delegate explains the ICRC's work and mission, and its activities in Iraq.

ASSISTING WOMEN HEADING HOUSEHOLDS

Women who must shoulder the burden of caring for their families alone because their husbands have been killed, arrested, disabled by war injuries, or have gone missing, have to struggle with extremely harsh living conditions. The ICRC aids them in their efforts to register with Iraq's welfare allowance system. Women heading households are also offered grants to start small businesses and become financially self-sufficient.

In 2011:

- 453 vulnerable families headed by women in Baghdad and Anbar received financial and technical support to register with the State social welfare system;
- 463 projects were initiated, either directly by the ICRC or in cooperation with local NGOs, to help women setting up small agricultural, animal husbandry, trade, craft and service enterprises, in Baghdad, Basra, Kirkuk, Diyala and Ninawa.

The ICRC also continued its dialogue with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the authorities concerned to improve the living conditions of women heading households.

COOPERATING WITH THE IRAQI RED CRESCENT SOCIETY

The ICRC helps the Iraqi Red Crescent Society (IRCS) develop its capacity to deliver humanitarian services in Iraq. Cooperation also focuses on assisting persons separated from their relatives to restore contact and exchange news, and educating communities about the risks of explosive remnants of war.

In 2011:

- 42 first-aid and emergency response courses were organized for 630 IRCS staff and volunteers, and 6 instructors were trained;
- 20 IRCS staff were trained in disaster management assessment: 4 were selected to become regional instructors, and 2 coordinators;
- 3 training courses in mine risk education were provided by the ICRC, and 367 information sessions were conducted by IRCS teams to more than 28,000 people in affected areas in 15 governorates.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO CLEAN DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION

Access to clean water remains a challenge in much of Iraq. ICRC engineers repair and upgrade water, electrical and sanitary facilities, especially in places where violence remains a concern and in remote rural areas, with a view to improve the quality of services and infrastructures. It also provides safe drinking water for internally displaced people (IDPs) and other persons in need.

In 2011:

- some 6,780,000 people, including 190,000 IDPs within host communities, gained improved access to safe water. The ICRC repaired 19 water treatment plants, 31 compact units, 11 boosting station, 8 water supply systems and 1 pumping station, and installed 2 reverse osmosis systems;
- 14,000 displaced people living in group settlements (Hawraa camp in Wasit, and Sadr City in Baghdad) benefited from water supplies through the installation of water treatment plants and trucking;
- 4 hospitals, with a total capacity of 2,445 beds, were partially rehabilitated in Salah Al-Din, Ninawa, Najaf and Basra; 12 primary health care centers, serving a total of over 7,200 patients a day, benefited from construction, renovation and maintenance work;
- the physical rehabilitation center of Nasiriya, which will treat 500 patients per year, was completed, while the storage room of the centre in Falluja was extended;
- sanitation facilities of Al-Rashad psychiatric hospital in Baghdad (1,375 beds) were rehabilitated;
- the living conditions of some 4,800 detainees in 7 prisons in Central and Southern Iraq were improved (sewage system, clinic, water cooling system, etc.);

- the autopsy theatre of the Medico-Legal Institute in Baghdad was renovated;
- 195 technicians and maintenance staff of water treatment plants and hospitals in Central Iraq took part in 2 training sessions.



Kirkuk – The ICRC built a water reservoir to provide clean water to rural communities.

MISSION

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.

TO CONTACT THE ICRC IN IRAQ

Baghdad delegation

Tel. + 964 770 4438 126 or + 964 780 1964 615

E-mail: bag_bagdad@icrc.org

Erbil sub-delegation

Tel. + 964 66 22 72 850/ 851/ 852

E-mail: erb_erbil@icrc.org

Najaf sub-delegation

Tel. + 964 770 492 5962 or + 964 780 202 6084

E-mail: naj_najaf@icrc.org

Baghdad sub-delegation

Tel. + 964 790 192 2464 or + 964 780 109 9641

E-mail: bgd_bagdadcentre@icrc.org

Dohuk office

Tel. + 964 62 722 44 67 or + 964 750 487 00 71

E-mail: doh_dohuk@icrc.org

Basra office

Tel. + 964 780 1099 600 or 964 790 1916 980

E-mail: bas_basrah@icrc.org

Kirkuk sub-delegation

Tel. + 964 750 862 0388 or + 964 770 484 3386

E-mail: kir_kirkuk@icrc.org

Sulaimaniya office

Tel. + 964 53 330 2729 or + 964 53 330 3038

E-mail: sul_suleymanieh@icrc.org

Iraq support office in Amman

Tel. + 962 6 55 23 994

E-mail: iqs_iraq@icrc.org

For more information visit www.icrc.org



ICRC

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC) HAS BEEN WORKING IN IRAQ CONTINUOUSLY SINCE 1980 RESPONDING TO THE CONSEQUENCES OF ARMED CONFLICTS AND VIOLENCE.