



+ ICRC delegation
 + ICRC sub-delegation
 + ICRC office
+ ICRC-supported prosthetic/orthotic centre
 * Amman: Iraq support office

EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection	15,652
Assistance	35,215
Prevention	7,419
Cooperation with National Societies	1,728
General	-

▶ **60,013**
of which: Overheads 3,663

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	89%
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PERSONNEL

Expatriates	98
National staff (daily workers not included)	691

KEY POINTS

In 2012, the ICRC:

- ▶ further extended its operational reach to remote or violence-prone areas in the centre of the country and the disputed territories, despite security constraints
- ▶ visited a total of 38,282 detainees in 104 places of detention during 232 visits throughout the year, providing the authorities concerned with feedback on the detainees' treatment and living conditions
- ▶ contributed to progress in clarifying the fate of people missing since the 1980–88 Iran-Iraq War and the 1990–91 Gulf War by acting as a neutral intermediary and facilitating joint missions to recover and repatriate remains
- ▶ provided some 6,500 farmers and 800 women and disabled heads of household in rural and violence-prone areas with agricultural inputs or cash grants, helping them establish or restore their livelihoods
- ▶ improved conditions for over 1.6 million people by facilitating their access to water and health/medical care, including physical rehabilitation services
- ▶ provided emergency relief, including food rations and household and hygiene items to some 5,600 vulnerable households (over 33,500 people), particularly IDPs and refugees

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 and the Kurdistan regional authorities and on efforts to clarify the fate/whereabouts of missing persons. Assistance activities involve helping IDPs and residents restore their livelihoods in remote and/or neglected areas prone to violence, assisting primarily households headed by women, supporting physical rehabilitation and primary health care centres and repairing and upgrading water, health and detention infrastructure. The ICRC continues to promote IHL among weapon bearers and to support the Iraqi Red Crescent Society.

CONTEXT

Nearly three years after the general elections, the political situation in Iraq remained unstable, with controversial issues unresolved and key ministerial positions vacant. Tensions persisted between the Iraqi central government and the Kurdistan regional government over revenue allocation and control of the disputed territories. Other provinces also sought more autonomy. High levels of violence throughout the year reportedly led to thousands of civilian deaths, particularly in Baghdad, central Iraq and the disputed territories.

The delivery of public services remained poor and unemployment rates high, such that people often lacked access to essential services, especially in remote and disputed areas. Large numbers of vulnerable households, including those headed by women, were dependent on social welfare to meet their needs.

Tens of thousands of Syrians who had fled the conflict in their country took refuge in Iraq, the majority of them in the Kurdistan region.

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

Having redeployed most of its delegation within Iraq, the ICRC continued to gain increased access to conflict/violence-affected people and was better placed to respond to their needs. Despite security constraints, the delegation extended its presence throughout the country, including in central Iraq and the disputed territories, albeit with fewer beneficiaries than initially planned for the year.

Given the insecurity in the country, building relationships with the authorities, armed groups and community and religious leaders was crucial to gaining their acceptance of the ICRC and, consequently, to securing guarantees of safe access to vulnerable populations, particularly those in disputed and violence-prone areas. Regular events encouraged the authorities and weapon bearers to meet their obligations under IHL, especially in terms of protecting and assisting those not or no longer participating in the violence, and to incorporate IHL provisions into national legislation and military doctrine and operations. In this vein, the ICRC monitored and, where appropriate, followed up such issues as: IDPs under threat of eviction; people affected by arrest campaigns; violence affecting medical services; and the reported shelling of civilian infrastructure along the border with Turkey.

Main figures and indicators	PROTECTION	Total		
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)				
Red Cross messages (RCMs)				
RCMs collected		119	UAMs/SCs*	
RCMs distributed		179		
Phone calls facilitated between family members		4		
Reunifications, transfers and repatriations				
People transferred/repatriated		6		
Human remains transferred/repatriated		205		
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons¹				
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		120	Women	Minors
People located (tracing cases closed positively)		81	11	7
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)		2,341	21	92
Documents				
People to whom travel documents were issued		108		
Official documents relayed between family members across borders/front lines		23		
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
ICRC visits				
Detainees visited ²		38,282	Women	Minors
Detainees visited and monitored individually		1,010	32	3
Detainees newly registered		312	7	3
Number of visits carried out		232		
Number of places of detention visited		104		
Restoring family links				
RCMs collected		869		
RCMs distributed		786		
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative		772		
Detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support		85		
People to whom a detention attestation was issued		1,509		

* 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 notified by the authorities and followed up by the ICRC

The ICRC continued limited distributions of food, household items and water to help vulnerable civilians, including IDPs and refugees, cope in especially difficult circumstances. It worked alongside the authorities to improve livelihoods and strengthen local capacities to ensure sustainable results. In this respect, it targeted those most in need, such as IDPs, households headed by women, and residents of rural and conflict-affected areas where infrastructure and services were often inadequate.

Thus, hundreds of women and disabled people started businesses with cash grants, enabling them to better support their families. The ICRC also continued helping women heads of household to register for State allowances, while encouraging the authorities to improve the related procedures. Similarly, farming households in rural areas were better able to support themselves after infrastructure rehabilitation, agricultural inputs and cash-for-work programmes helped them secure their livelihoods.

Communities, mainly in rural areas, benefited from better primary health care and water and sanitation facilities. With the local authorities, the ICRC improved water supply and distribution systems, making clean water more accessible. In line with a new agreement with the Ministry of Health, the ICRC supported primary health care centres through infrastructure rehabilitation and on-site training, thereby helping the centres provide quality services.

To enhance the treatment of the wounded and sick, the ICRC and the health authorities organized first-aid workshops for the Iraqi Red Crescent Society. Doctors and medical students also honed their skills at war-surgery and emergency room management courses.

ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centres continued to provide services to the disabled, many of whom had weapon-related injuries. To prevent more people from suffering such injuries,

the ICRC assisted the National Society in conducting awareness sessions and carried out weapon-clearance activities in several communities in Missan province.

Detainees held by the Iraqi central government and the Kurdistan regional government received visits conducted according to the ICRC's standard procedures. Delegates provided the authorities with confidential feedback on the detainees' treatment and living conditions, focusing on respect for judicial guarantees and detainee health care, while making representations to the authorities concerned regarding cases of individuals who had allegedly been arrested but remained unaccounted for. In parallel, it offered family-links services to detainees and supported projects to improve prison infrastructure.

With the ICRC acting as a neutral intermediary, the parties concerned worked to clarify the fate of people missing since the 1980–88 Iran-Iraq war (see *Iran, Islamic Republic of*) and the 1990–91 Gulf War (see *Kuwait*). Furthermore, it provided technical expertise and capacity-building for those involved in the recovery and identification processes.

The ICRC's partnership with the Iraqi Red Crescent benefited from more formalized relations and increased contacts at the branch level, which included joint operations. The National Society received support in building its emergency response capacities. Coordination with other humanitarian organizations operating in Iraq helped maximize cooperation and avoid duplication or gaps.

CIVILIANS

Contributing to the protection of civilians and helping them cope with the humanitarian consequences of armed conflict and violence remained a priority for the ICRC in Iraq, particularly in rural and conflict-affected areas where needs were most acute and infrastructure was often inadequate.

Main figures and indicators	ASSISTANCE	Total	Women	Children
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)				
Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Food commodities	Beneficiaries	10,506	32%	39%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	Beneficiaries	7,774	
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	26,777	27%	36%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	Beneficiaries	18,709	
Productive inputs	Beneficiaries	16,354	24%	40%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	Beneficiaries	322	
Cash	Beneficiaries	23,610	30%	45%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	Beneficiaries	407	
Work, services and training	Beneficiaries	25,554	32%	40%
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	1,616,162	30%	40%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	Beneficiaries	78,247	
Health				
Health centres supported	Structures	12		
Average catchment population		400,000		
Consultations	Patients	354,648		
	<i>of which curative</i>	Patients	49,651	156,044
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)¹				
Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection programme)				
Essential household items ¹	Beneficiaries	2,447		
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	3,181		
WOUNDED AND SICK				
Water and habitat				
Water and habitat activities	Number of beds	12		
Physical rehabilitation				
Centres supported ²	Structures	13		
Patients receiving services	Patients	33,472	3,840	9,473
New patients fitted with prostheses	Patients	1,134	206	43
Prostheses delivered	Units	3,927	454	96
	<i>of which for victims of mines or explosive remnants of war</i>	Units	1,131	
New patients fitted with orthoses	Patients	8,388	1,132	5,434
Orthoses delivered	Units	14,213	1,527	10,361
	<i>of which for victims of mines or explosive remnants of war</i>	Units	9	
Number of patients receiving physiotherapy	Patients	7,636	1,151	1,710
Crutches delivered	Units	850		
Wheelchairs delivered	Units	197		

1. Owing to operational and management constraints, figures presented in this table and in the narrative part of this report may not reflect all activities carried out during the reporting period

2. This figure includes crutch-production units

The welfare and concerns of IDPs, including those displaced for economic reasons and under threat of eviction, and civilians affected by arrest campaigns in Babil and Kirkuk provinces or by shelling along the border with Turkey were monitored and followed up. With a view to identifying possible interventions, violence affecting medical services was similarly monitored, including through interviews with staff of the ICRC-supported primary health care services.

The protection concerns faced by Syrian refugees prior to their arrival in Iraq were also documented.

Families meet basic needs and improve livelihoods

Some 4,200 households (26,500 people), mostly comprising IDPs in group settlements across the country, improved their living conditions through one-off National Society/ICRC distributions of household and hygiene items. Particularly vulnerable IDPs also received food rations to complement existing coping mechanisms. An additional 1,200 Syrians who had fled their country benefited from similar assistance.

While it continued to provide relief to the aforementioned groups of people, the ICRC focused on helping households regain or maintain their self-sufficiency. However, because of insecurity and human resources constraints delaying assessments and project

implementation, fewer people benefited from economic security initiatives than planned for 2012.

Nevertheless, some 600 women and 200 disabled heads of household (around 4,260 people) started income-generating activities, which often brought in over 40% of their households' revenue, after receiving cash grants. Some 6,500 farming households (41,900 people) in rural and violence-prone areas, such as Baghdad and the disputed territories, also improved their living conditions through agricultural support/inputs, which included livestock restocking/vaccination, rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructure and donations of greenhouses, drip-irrigation systems, seed and tools. Among the farmers, 576 received cash payments for repairing irrigation canals, helping them support their families while improving community infrastructure.

In line with a revised approach combining relief and advocacy efforts, 3,989 women (with some 11,970 dependents) were supported by the ICRC and local NGOs in registering for State allowances disbursed by the Directorate of Women and Social Care; cash payments covered the women's expenses in compiling the required documents, as well as their needs for a six-month period. Unfortunately, the directorate was unable to register all ICRC-supported women owing to internal constraints. Bilateral meetings and other efforts to encourage the authorities concerned to

resume the registration process and increase the directorate's budget were under way. The development of this project was continuously monitored to enable the delegation to adapt the approach as necessary.

Water and sanitation facilities improve in rural areas

Although over 9,500 IDPs, returnees and refugees benefited from emergency interventions that included trucked-in water, most of the ICRC's water and sanitation activities focused on longer-term solutions. Notably, all projects involved the local authorities to ensure sustainability and community ownership. Training courses helped technicians learn the skills necessary for them to manage the structures autonomously in the future.

Over 1.6 million people had improved access to safe water and were thus less vulnerable to disease following the rehabilitation or construction of 31 water supply and distribution systems mainly in rural parts of the country. Among these were 500,000 people in Abu Khistawi and 24,600 IDPs in six different locations who benefited from the rehabilitation of their water supply systems.

Civilians receive better primary health care

Over 400,000 people, particularly women and children, had better access to primary health care as a result of improved services provided by 12 State-run health centres. In December, a 13th health centre began receiving support. Per a newly signed agreement with the Ministry of Health, the centres received on-site support, training and medical material, with a view to enhancing hygiene conditions, medical care, drug storage/management and immunization activities. Five of the centres also underwent rehabilitation.

Notably, having strengthened their capacities to manage cholera cases, supported primary health care centres in northern Iraq helped control outbreaks in their catchment areas.

Communities learn about safe behaviour and benefit from mine clearance

While the ICRC completed its mine-clearance programme in June, cooperation with the National Society, the local authorities and other actors continued to help strengthen their capacities to address weapon contamination.

Some 6,000 civilians in three communities in Missan had safer conditions after the removal of 958 pieces of ordnance during clearance operations carried out in coordination with the local authorities, the National Society and the Regional Mine Action

Centre. Over 34,000 people also learnt about the behaviour they should adopt to mitigate the risks of weapon contamination at Iraqi Red Crescent-led awareness sessions.

Families receive news of relatives

With the ICRC acting as a neutral intermediary, the parties concerned progressed in clarifying the fate of people missing since the 1980–88 Iran-Iraq war (see *Iran, Islamic Republic of*) and the 1990–91 Gulf War (see *Kuwait*), with joint excavation missions taking place in Iraq. Hundreds of sets of remains were recovered and repatriated, under ICRC auspices, to Iran, while Iraqi remains recovered in the Islamic Republic of Iran were similarly repatriated to Iraq. However, no remains were located during joint missions to recover missing Kuwaitis.

Discussions with the authorities concerned highlighted the importance of increasing cooperation among the different stakeholders and of building forensic and data-management capacities. To this end and on the basis of a review of the recovery and identification processes, the Medico-Legal Institute in Baghdad improved its work and began implementing the recommendations with the help of donated equipment, technical advice, and training in forensic anthropology and laboratory management. Representatives of the Ministry of Human Rights participated in courses on conducting excavations, while two Iraqis attended a course on managing human remains.

In parallel, people continued to restore or maintain contact with family members, particularly those detained, using National Society/ICRC family-links services. Through the tracing service, 81 families learnt the fate of missing relatives, while 108 individuals received travel documents facilitating their resettlement in third countries. The remains of three foreign nationals were repatriated to their countries with the support of the embassies concerned and under the auspices of the ICRC.

Efforts were under way to establish clear procedures for tracing work to clarify the fate of foreign nationals who may have gone missing in Iraq.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

People held by the Iraqi central government and the Kurdistan regional government continued to receive visits from the ICRC, conducted according to its standard procedures. Following 232 visits to 38,282 detainees held in 104 different facilities, delegates gave the authorities concerned confidential feedback on detainees' treatment and living conditions and, when necessary,

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM	IRAQ CENTRAL GOVERNMENT	IRAQ KURDISTAN REGIONAL
ICRC visits		
Detainees visited	34,573	3,709
Detainees visited and monitored individually	731	279
	<i>of whom women</i>	1
	<i>of whom minors</i>	
Detainees newly registered	159	153
	<i>of whom women</i>	7
	<i>of whom minors</i>	3
Number of visits carried out	146	86
Number of places of detention visited	63	41
Restoring family links		
RCMs collected	801	68
RCMs distributed	732	54
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	769	3
Detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support	85	
People to whom a detention attestation was issued	762	678

made recommendations for improvements; special attention was paid to respect for judicial guarantees, regardless of the reasons for a detainee's arrest. Representations were made to the authorities concerned, encouraging them to clarify the whereabouts of individuals who had allegedly been arrested but had not been accounted for.

On the basis of ICRC assessments of respect for judicial guarantees in the different facilities, high-level officials participated in bilateral discussions and round-tables on the topic in Dohuk, Erbil and Sulaymaniyah. Members of the judiciary in Baghdad and Najaf, along with lawyers from Basra, attended workshops on their roles in ensuring the respect of these guarantees, particularly during the pre-trial phase.

Detainees used RCM services or passed on oral messages to their relatives through ICRC delegates. Foreign detainees notified their embassies or UNHCR of their whereabouts; coordination with UNHCR continued to help ensure respect for the principle of *non-refoulement*. With ICRC support, 85 detainees in the Chamchamal federal prison received family visits, while Saudi families selected for family visits to Iraq received assistance in processing their visas (see *Kuwait*).

Detainees' well-being is enhanced

Discussions on detainees' access to health services served to remind officials of the importance of joint action by the detaining and health authorities. The Ministries of Health and Justice received a report designed to initiate dialogue and improve cooperation on health in detention. Reinforcing these efforts, representatives of the Ministries of Health and Justice attended a regional seminar in Amman (see *Jordan*) and a local one in Basra.

Some 3,180 detainees had better living conditions following the rehabilitation of infrastructure in six detention facilities. This included the upgrade of a prison clinic and water, sanitation and ventilation systems and the creation of an open area to allow detainees access to fresh air. Over 3,400 detainees, including minors and women, received household, hygiene, educational and recreational items to ease their confinement.

WOUNDED AND SICK

Enhancing the quality of first-aid services, 315 volunteers and 58 instructors from the Iraqi Red Crescent gained the requisite skills to treat people in need of emergency care, during workshops organized in cooperation with the National Society and the Ministry of Health.

To boost local capacities to provide higher-level care, over 40 Iraqi doctors and 50 medical students developed their war-surgery skills during seminars organized with the Ministry of Health. Similarly, a course for 29 doctors, several of whom were selected as future trainers, contributed to increasing capacities in trauma and emergency room management in Basra and nearby areas.

Patients at the Al-Rashad Psychiatric Hospital continued to benefit from occupational therapy sponsored by the ICRC. In line with an agreement with the Ministry of Health, hospital staff underwent training to help them provide such therapy autonomously. Efforts to integrate family-links services into the hospital's services were ongoing.

Physical rehabilitation services boosted

In all, 33,472 people with disabilities, around half of whom were amputees, received care at 10 ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centres and one ICRC-run centre, where on-site coaching and various training initiatives helped staff hone their skills and improve the quality of available services. While those centres and two crutch-production units used ICRC-provided raw materials, the Ministry of Health progressively assumed more financial and management responsibilities, thanks, in part, to on-site training.

Iraq's only prosthetics/orthotics school and one physiotherapy school received advice from the International Society of Prosthetics on gaining international recognition for their programmes.

Through joint assessments of existing services and its participation in the Iraqi Higher Committee on Physical Rehabilitation, the ICRC provided the relevant authorities with advice and expertise on improving treatment and rehabilitation options in the country.

AUTHORITIES

Regular contacts with the Iraqi central government, the Kurdistan regional government and representatives of the main political parties at central and regional levels sought to enlist their support for ICRC operations and help the organization improve its on-the-ground access.

IHL implementation and the creation of a national IHL committee remained at the core of discussions with the central government. To help the authorities stay informed of IHL developments, government experts participated in regional meetings on IHL implementation (see *Kuwait* and *Lebanon*).

The ICRC pursued efforts to encourage the parliament to ratify an agreement formalizing aspects of its presence in Iraq.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Armed and security forces at central and regional levels maintained constructive dialogue with the ICRC on their obligations under IHL and international human rights law and on the ICRC's mandate and operations in Iraq, focusing particularly on its work for people deprived of their freedom.

As part of efforts to institutionalize IHL through its inclusion in the armed forces' training, doctrine and sanctions system, 87 formation commanders participated in seminars on integrating IHL into decision-making processes, and 27 members of the Kurdistan forces trained as IHL instructors. Complementing these, 920 members of the security forces, including police officers, learnt more about IHL and other applicable norms during dissemination sessions.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Religious and tribal leaders deepened their awareness of the ICRC's mandate and activities and of the links between IHL and Islam during regular meetings and workshops. Their acceptance helped expand the organization's access especially to conflict/violence-affected areas. Similarly, several NGOs, particularly those working in support of women, reinforced their cooperation with the ICRC, contributing their expertise and facilitating contacts on the ground.

During briefing sessions, more than 2,000 current and potential beneficiaries of assistance programmes throughout the country learnt more about the ICRC and its activities.

Local media continued to report on the ICRC's operations, helping increase their audiences' awareness of the humanitarian consequences of armed conflict and violence. In support of this, Iraqi journalists attended an IHL training course in Beirut (see *Lebanon*) to enhance their knowledge of and, consequently, their ability to report on the rules governing armed conflict.

Increased contacts and activities with universities, including meetings with the deans of law faculties in Baghdad, Diyala and Najaf, allowed for more intense promotion of IHL, with a view to seeing it integrated into academic curricula. Students, lecturers and university officials participated in IHL events, including a course in Beirut (see *Lebanon*).

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Iraqi Red Crescent and the ICRC continued their operational cooperation to respond to the needs of conflict/violence-affected people (see *Civilians* and *Wounded and sick*).

With ICRC support, the National Society improved its emergency preparedness and response capacities. Training in the Safer Access approach enabled it to increase its operational reach and its personnel to go about their activities more securely. Furthermore, instructors who had received ICRC training in 2011 began coaching other staff and volunteers in assessing the population's economic security needs and in designing projects to meet those needs.

National Society staff sharpened their knowledge of IHL and the Fundamental Principles, while dissemination officers from across Iraq enhanced their capacities to raise awareness of these topics among a wider audience.

The Iraqi Red Crescent continued to receive institutional support from the ICRC and other Movement partners to review its statutes and to develop a five-year national strategic plan.