

The Iraqi Red Crescent society

Annual Report 2008



Issued by organizational development & reporting department

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Introduction

The Iraqi Red Crescent Society (IRCS) is an independent national society, concerned with the human needs of the Iraqi people and the people in the neighboring countries. Founded in Baghdad 2 March 1932. Recognized by the Iraqi government in 1934 , then by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in 16 June 1934. In 23 June 1934 became a member in the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

IRCS aims to reduce the human suffering by offering relief, therapeutic medical care, rehabilitation, and voluntary services. Publicizing social development and concentrate on the most vulnerable. Also disseminating human values, the principles of the international movement and the International Humanitarian Law (IHL). The IRCS is a supportive body to the Iraqi government in the humanitarian field as a voluntary relief society "a member in the International Movement" committed to the Fundamental Principles; Humanity, Independence, Impartiality, Neutrality, Voluntary Service and Universality.

IRCS implements its activities in cooperation with the local community through its active departments were it works basically in the relieving field, and supportive departments that facilitate the society's activities, like water and habitat department, properties department, finance department, administration department, legal department. These departments participate in the accomplishment of the society' humanitarian tasks, and because of their huge performance we can not represent it in tables and diagrams.

Following are the activities of the IRCS during 2008

Disaster Management

Contributing in relief operations, setting up camps and training staff (employees and volunteers) is carried out by disaster management department which includes two sections (preparedness and response).



The activities in 2008

1. Set a distribution plan to provide 45 NGO's and IRCS branches with relief items to be distributed for deprived families, widows and orphans.
2. Supplying IRCS branches with 1350 IRCS uniforms.
3. Donating relief items (1250 blanket, 1200 jerry can, 240 first aid kits) to the Palestinian Red Crescent Society to be distributed for people affected by military operation in Gaza city.
4. Distributing food and non-food items for 1529 displaced Christian families in Nineva governorate.
5. Distributing 7085 food parcels to families affected by military operations in Al-Sader city and Southern governorates.
6. Providing food and non-food items for displaced families due to bombing attack in Al-Zangeely area in Nineva Governorate.



Distributing food and non-food shares for deprived families, widows and orphans as illustrated in the table below.

No	Item	Quantity
1	Food share	184089
2	Non-food items	49681
3	First aid kit	240
4	Health kit	2841
5	Dates carton	32400
6	Bean can, fish can	23467
7	Hygiene kit	2000
8	Gift for children	4500
9	Thermo	5648
10	Blanket	11258
11	Jerry can (water)	3761
12	Stove	4648
13	Rice (50kg)	814
14	Laundry machine	3
15	Corn oil	648
16	Hygiene kits	200
17	Wheelchairs	50
18	Jerry can	1129
19	Wash water	360 carton
20	Soap	1554 piece
21	Gloves	1000
22	Tents	863
23	Stoves	1461
24	Tarpaulin	219
25	Veil	1128
26	Ander ware	898 set
27	Woman's wear	1628 piece
28	Water tank	10(3000 liter)
29	Rice	150(25 kg)
30	Sport wear for men	1128 piece
31	School bag	3893
32	Shoes for boys and girls	5361
33	Fan	7611
34	Sport wears for boys and girls	4161
35	Kitchen set	1826

Bellow detailed food and non-food items:

Iraqi Red Crescent Food parcel

(white flour 5 kg – sugar 3 kg – rice 2 kg - tea ½ kg - pasta 1 kg – olive oil 2 liters – cream 2 cans – beans 2 cans – tomato paste 1 can – mushroom 2 cans – beef 2 cans).

Turkish RC food parcel

(white flour 5 kg – sugar 5 kg - rice 2 ½ kg - beans 2 ½ kg - chickpeas 2 ½ kg - pasta 2 kg).

Relief share

(4 blankets – 1 kitchen set – 1 kerosene stove – 1 kerosene heater – 2 buckets – 1 hygiene kit – 1 water thermo).

Setting up camps in 2008

1. Setting up 25 tents for displaced families in Babil governorate, the number of beneficiaries 24 families.
2. Setting up 45 tents in Al-shaab stadium to families decamped due to military operations in Al-Sader city, number of beneficiaries 45 families.
3. Setting up a camp of 238 tents in Bazian district in Sulymania governorate where 189 families benefited from the camp. Adding to another two camps had been set up for Mecca pilgrims; the first one in Karbala governorate 50 tents, number of beneficiaries 2896 pilgrims, the other one in border city Safoan 8 tents of 60 persons capacity, number of beneficiaries 3018 pilgrims.

Health & Care

Health Department is one of the active departments of IRCS measured by the duties in health relief during disasters (natural and manmade disaster). The Health Dept. consists of five sections; health programs, psychosocial support, medical reports, contagious diseases and first aid sections.

Main activities of Health Department

The total amount of the medical supplies donated by IRCS to public and private hospitals and civil community organizations is 25 tones. Treating 20 patient cases in Lebanon on IRCS cost according to a memorandum of understanding signed with Belmont University. Distributing 17 crutches and 220 wheelchairs to people with disabilities. Distributing 30 blood and sugar measurements to patients while the treatment costs of 144 patients were covered by IRCS. Making 135 surgical interventions for free to patients (needy people) in IRCS surgical hospital. Discounting 60% of treatment cost to 380 patients and paying the treatment costs to 85 patients.

First Aid for Schools Program

The number of courses organized in primary, intermediate and secondary schools was 2720 courses in 17 governorates and 500 schools in Baghdad. The total number of beneficiaries is 82.000 around the country.

Psychosocial Support Program

The number of families benefited from the psychosocial support lectures was 160 families. These lectures based on coping with the displacement situation and the armed conflicts. Also lectures had been given to 140 families whom displaced from Al-Sader city/Baghdad to Al-Sha'ab stadium camp. The PSP team visited 50 orphanages and trained their staff on the new PSP methods and psychosocial support intervention was offered to the orphans.

Youth and Volunteers

Voluntary service facilitates the access of IRCS to the local community and represents the main tool to implement programs. IRCS depends on two main resources; financial and human, this department is the provider of human resources to implement the activities of the programs (DM-Health-Logistics-Dissemination-ERWA-Tracing and Information departments). The role of this department is based on attracting volunteers through programs directed to the youth in scout camps, orphanages and holding festivals to disseminate the Fundamental Principle of the movement. The total number of IRCS volunteers is 18198 participated in implementing 1131 activities in 2008.

Programs & Activities

Program	Details	Targeted category	No. of beneficiaries	No. of participated volunteers
Periodical meeting	629 activities	Volunteers	7491	
Women support	26 activities of sewing-embroidery-painting-accessories making	Widows-orphans-old maids		495
Children support	47 activities of festivals-presenting gifts to needy children and pupils	Orphanages		766
Supporting school students	75 activities of distributing clothing-stationary-returning displaced students to their schools- starting classes to illiterate people	Orphan and displaced students	7454	779
Social activities	Starting blood donation campaigns-helping pilgrims in Holly Islamic occasions	Orphans-widows-people with disabilities needy people		1734

Logistics

Supplying and transporting food and non-food items is carried out by Logistics department. It includes four sections; first fleet section with 218 vehicles (various capacity trucks, vehicles, water tankers). Second warehouse section, responsible of warehouse management and dispatching of goods. By the end of 2007, the Iraqi Red Crescent had four regional warehouses in Baghdad, Basra, Erbil and Saladin with capacity of 1000-2000 m³ each, 18 branch warehouses with capacity of 500-1000 m³ each.



Third distribution section, participates in distributing food and non-food items in cooperation with the Disaster Response section. Finally the department has a maintenance section, which succeeded to maintain 126 vehicles right through 2008.

The table below illustrates the distributed items during 2008

No	Donor	Item and quantity								
1.	Iraqi RC	19450 food parcels	7124 blankets	4300 jerry cans	2264 kitchen sets	1926 kerosene	1630 lantern	459 fans	994 kerosene heaters	1431 water thermos
2.	ICRC	5507 hygiene kit	15588 blankets	12961 jerry cans	2525 kitchen sets	1629 trampoline	2226 plastic buckets			
3.	Turkish RC	401 food parcels	200 bar of soap							
4.	Kuwait RC	953 rice bag								
5.	Iranian RC	241 tents	1281 rice bag of (5 kg) each	420 tea bag of (450 g) each	550 hygiene kits	15 chick-peas bag of (900 g)	238 milled chick-peas	150 green bean cans	29291 fish cans	28043 white beans
6.	UNICEF	25 pillows	30 towels	614 plates	625 spoons	615 cups	82 cooking pots			
7.	Federation	49 wheel chairs	60 buckets							

Restoring family links

Central tracing program initiated in 1999 in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross, it helps families who lost one person or more during armed conflicts and natural disasters through direct contact with them to restore links with their family members.

The program activities divided into two kinds; the first one is focusing on delivering services according to the mutual agreement with ICRC. The program assists detainees to re-establish links with their families through collecting and distributing Red Crescent messages. Tracing staff collect information regarding missing people and arrange for family re-union when possible. The second kind of activities is concerned with various requests submitted by people inside and outside the country to trace missing people, issuing official documents, etc...

Tracing issues in 2008 included

1. Delivering 26040 messages from the detainees to their families, and collecting 11751 replies to senders. Delivering 5301 internment card sent by detainees to notify their families about their places. Filling release forms, and sending back 900 messages to senders because it was unsecured to reach destination.
2. Collecting 2521 allegations of detention which were sent to ICRC for issuing attestation of detention. Notifying 2132 persons about the date of receiving their approved attestation of detention. The total of 1367 attestations of detention were distributed.
3. Collecting 216 allegations of detention from people claiming detention by multi-national forces. Sending the allegations to ICRC for follow up with concerned authorities.
4. Following up the fate of two detainees.

The table below illustrates outstanding activities for the Central Tracing department:

No	Tracing requests	Addressed to	Requested by	Applicant place	The result
1	Delivering medicine to detainee	Iraqi ministry of Interior	Relatives of sick detainee	Iraq	The medicine delivered
2	Inquiry about two American soldiers in Iraq	Multinational forces	Their relatives	United State of America	Achieving direct contact between solders' and their relatives
3	Asking about Iraqi person in the republic of Philippine	Philippine Red Cross	His relatives	Iraq	Achieving direct contact between person and his relatives
4	Restoring family link for Somali person	Yemen Red Crescent Society	The Somali person	Iraq	The request has been rejected by Yemen Red Crescent Society
5	Commutation of penalty for IRCS' detained employee	Multinational forces	His relatives	Iraq	Positive result because of information sent by IRCS
6	Confirm issuing attestation of detention	Major Crimes Section	Family	Iraq	The section benefited from the document and confirmed the release check
7	Tracing request about Iraqi person missed since 1996 in Iraq	Tracing office in Baghdad branch	Family	USA	Reconnected with his family
8	Applying request for release a Jordanian citizen	Ministry of Interior, Ministry of human rights	Family	Jordan	They released him and he traveled to Jordan
9	Tracing department interceded to release one of IRCS employee	Multi national forces	Family	Iraq	They released him according to humanitarian services he did during arresting and suspicious time
10	Tracing request about Iraqi person in USA	American Red Cross	Family	Iraq	Reconnect with his family
11	Issuing Death certificate for Iraqi detainee dead in Saudi Arabia in 1993	Saudi Red Crescent Society	Family	Iraq	Got death certificate and sent it to his family
12	Tracing request of Iraqi citizen in Iraq	Ministry of Human Wrights	Family	Netherland	No result
13	Issuing death certificate for Iraqi detainee dead in Saudi Arabia in 1991	Kuwait Red Crescent Society	Family	Iraq	Got death certificate and sent it to his family
14	Tracing request of missed person in Nineva governorate	Department of Civil Statues	Family	Switzerland	No result
15	Tracing request of missed person since 2008	Directorate of Civil aviation	Dutch Red Cross Society	Germany	Notified his relatives about his departure to Syria
16	Tracing request of missed person since 2004	Medical autopsy directorate / ministry of Human Wright			
17	Issuing death certificates for Iraqi persons	Medical autopsy directorate	Family	Romania	Death certificates has been issued and sent to their family via Romanian Red Cross
18	Collecting information about remains for 64 Iraqi martyr	Ministry of Human Wrights	Family	Iraq	We notified their families that The remains have been send from Saudi Arabia to Iraq in 2007.
19	Tracing request of tow Iraqi missed since 1991	Tracing still in presses	Family	USA	Tracing still in presses

Organizational Development & Reporting

The major part of this part is to cope with all the organizational development issues and capacity building that includes writing projects, training, annual appeals and plans of action. As well as, writing annual reports, monthly reports and information bulletins.

Activities of 2008:

An OD plan of action prepared for 2009-2010, besides supporting other departments to achieve their plans of action. In addition to implementing two **projects** of job description for the Iraqi Red Crescent Society

OD staff participated in two training courses of projects planning and writing reports held in Jordan by the International Federation. Adapting the trainings' recommendations and a new format for monthly branches reports. The department issued annual activity report for 2007 and monthly activity report for each month.

Training

no	Activity	In cooperating with	Number of Beneficiaries	Venue
1.	Youth and volunteers workshop	IFRC	23	Jordan
2.	Projects planning and writing reports	IFRC	22	Jordan
3.	TOT in tracing	Turkish Red Crescent Society	24	Turkey
4.	TOT in psychosocial support	Turkish Red Crescent Society	23	Turkey
5.	Community Based First Aid / Health	Iranian Red Crescent Society	26	Iran
6.	Relief and evaluation / Disaster Management	IFRC	24	Jordan
7.	Water and sanitation	IFRC	1	Jordan

Information Technology & Communication

Information Technology Section:

This section is responsible of maintaining and fixing computers as well as providing internet service and network connections.

During 2008 the IT section maintained 94 computers, nine printers, four UPSs, one photocopy machine and provided 12 computers with internet service. Providing inspecting and follow up department with database system.

Communication Section:

The activities of this section summarized in expanding and programming the HQ switchboard, installing Motorola (VHF & HF) antennas in Baghdad Sulaymania and Anbar branches' buildings. Insuring communication by distributing cell phones to departments and branches.

Protocol

Protocol department is responsible for coordinating with the ministries in addition to preparing for conferences and meetings between the society's governing board and staff. Beside booking 317 tickets and granting visas for staff and patients treated abroad on IRCS cost.

Explosive Remnants of War Awareness

The program targets people living near the contaminated areas and alerts them through awareness lectures. The program started in 2002 in cooperation with ICRC till 2007, this cooperation was suspended, whereas Iraqi Red Crescent society carried out most of the program costs. Program coordinators in all governorates except three northern governorates; continue implementing program activities and the table below illustrate these activities:

NO	Branch	The Activity				Distributed materials							Beneficiaries
		Lecture	Festival	Sticking campaign	Others	Poster	Folder	Snake	Maze	Time table	T-shirt		
1.	Baghdad	93	1	3	0	5656	2986	2623	2042	1313	415	5069	
2.	Basra	40	0	5	2 plays+2visits+meeting+ pilgrims campaign	535	3745	250	350	700	300	8959	
3.	Anbar	60	0	0	1play	330	331	571	423	263	327	1017	
4.	Diwaniya	30	1	6	0	445	1027	569	334	332	458	2830	
5.	Najaf	31	1	17	2Health mobile unites+ interview+ distributing relief items (10 operations)	903	3641	807	862	400	210	4229	
6.	Diyala	72	2	0	4 Training courses +1 visit	568	810	522	543	259	175	2232	
7.	Neneva	13	1	3	Visit + exhibit + distributing relief items (4 operations) + celebration for kids	1898	3376	980	1165	1400	590	4216	
8.	Kirkuk	23	0	6	12 visits + distributing relief items (1 operation)	520	480	0	0	0	0	643	
9.	Thiqar	38	2	7	4 civil defense visits + distributing relief items (1 operation) + visits +training course+ drawing and marathon competition +workshop+gifts+1 field survey	592	1874	740	593	975	136	2784	
10.	Missan	20	0	4	1Visit+1workshope+ distributing relief items (1 operation) +1play	455	0	350	356	86	10	887	
11.	Muthanna	19	2	5	3training courses +1visit+ distributing relief items (1 operation) + celebration	472	2201	95	415	555	217	2228	
12.	Babil	65	1	0	2 Civil defense visits	585	2021	761	476	493	441	2727	
13.	Wassit	31	1	4	Session	697	550	141	389	170	130	1791	
14.	Saladin	6	0	0	0	93	7	327	262	190	100	987	
15.	Karbala	11	0	1	2visits + distributing relief items (1 operation)	121	375	375	375	345	150	425	
Total		552	12	61	74	13870	23424	9111	8585	7481	3659	41024	

Information

This program started in 1996 in 6 governorates, then it expanded to 18 governorates. This program aims to disseminate the IHL and the principles of the International Movement of the Red Cross /Red Crescent, also disseminating the activities of IRCS.

IRCS information department activities in 2008:

- Issuing 5000 copies of IRCS magazine and distributing it to IRCS branches and departments as well as Ministries and directorates.
- Printing IRCS annual calendars (6000 wall calendars, 3750 desk calendars), 1725 agendas, 10.000 pens, 4800 key chains and 150 flags.
- Producing TV spots about (awareness from cholera and support to people with disabilities).
- Publishing 20 press releases about IRCS activities in supporting people in need and treating patients abroad.
- Filming 5000 photos and 5500 videos documenting IRCS activities.
- Publishing 300 news releases in local newspapers and ١٥٠ subtitles in satellite channels about IRCS activities.
- Producing a film (dens tragedy) about a family living in a den in Wassit governorate. And another film (hope certainty) stating the war remnants awareness activities, the film won several awards.
- Producing 29 TV interviews, 40 press interviews and four press conferences.

Dissemination

Dissemination program is one of the IRCS programs that disseminate IRCS humanitarian mission, the international movement, the fundamental principles, international humanitarian law (IHL), and the emblem usage. These goals are achieved by targeting the local communities with its various population implemented by the network staff spreading in the 18 branches in all the Iraqi governorates. The table below illustrates the program activities:

No	Branch	Lectures	Others	Beneficiaries		Notes
				Male	Female	
1	Wassit	53		876	374	188
2	Missan	51	Symposium/Scout camp	646	550	140
3	Nenava	50	-	840	497	169
4	Anbar	50	-	1259	707	428
5	Dewaniya	50	-	773	1158	105
6	Babil	50	-	819	400	550
7	Najaf	48		691	434	580
8	Kirkuk	47	Festival / Activity for kids	659	434	252
9	Diyalaa	35	-	390	185	312
10	Sulaimania	30	-	686	257	135
11	Mothanna	26	-	297	178	147
12	Thi qar	15	-	614	54	
13	Basra	10	Festival	998	651	
14	Saladin	9	-	175	92	162
15	Karbala	5	-	77	26	130
16	Baghdad		-			
17	Dhouk		-			
18	Arbil		-			
	Total	529	5	9800	5997	3298

Conclusion

IRCS attracted the attention since its foundation in 1932 in its active response to natural and man made disasters in accordance with the International Movement's principles as the head of relief committee in Iraq. IRCS also preserved its approach in supporting the local authorities in the aspect of relieving the vulnerable people by providing food, nonfood, potable water, and health care services. As well as providing other services in cooperation with other international partners through family links, awareness, dissemination and other various services.

IRCS is a unique society that worked inside Iraq during very dangerous periods after military operations of the multi national forces in 2003. Consequently IRCS implemented many relief operations all over the country through its countrywide network of volunteers. Violence that the country witnessed, for that our partners in the International Movement and The United Nations organizations could not work inside Iraq without IRCS' participation.