



# IRAQ

## 2025 IFRC network country plan



Funding Requirement **CHF 7.5M**

14 February 2025

### In support of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society



**18**

National Society  
branches



**113**

National Society  
local units



**2,020**

National Society  
staff



**13,005**

National Society  
volunteers

### People to be reached



**250,000**

Climate and  
environment



**300,000**

Disasters  
and crises



**450,000**

Health and  
wellbeing



**180,000**

Migration and  
displacement



**150,000**

Values, power  
and inclusion

### IFRC network multi-year focus

#### Longer-term needs

- Health
- Livelihoods
- Protracted displacement
- Climate change adaptation

#### Capacity development

- Positioning
- Financial management
- Resource mobilization
- Youth engagement

### Key country data links

INFORM Severity rating

**Medium**

INFORM Climate Change Risk Index

**Very high**

Human Development Index rank

**128**

World Bank Population figure

**45.5M**

World Bank Population below poverty line

**18.9%**

# Funding requirements

2025

**Total 7.5M CHF**

Through Participating National Societies

**3.8M CHF**

Through the IFRC

**3.7M CHF**

## IFRC Breakdown

### Longer term needs

**1M CHF**

Climate & environment

**800,000 CHF**

Disasters & crisis

**1.3M CHF**

Health & wellbeing

**250,000 CHF**

Migration & displacement

**120,000 CHF**

Values, power & inclusion

**250,000 CHF**

Enabling local actors

# Participating National Societies

British Red Cross

Danish Red Cross

German Red Cross

Norwegian Red Cross

Swedish Red Cross

Turkish Red Crescent Society

# IFRC Appeal codes

Longer-term needs:

**MAAIQ002**

See back page for explanatory note on funding requirements

## Participating National Societies bilateral support for 2025

National Society name	Funding Requirement	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling local actors
British Red Cross	162,000				●		
Danish Red Cross	1.4M	●		●		●	●
German Red Cross	1.1M	●	●	●	●		●
Norwegian Red Cross	633,000	●		●	●	●	●
Swedish Red Cross	250,000			●			
Turkish Red Crescent Society	250,000		●	●	●		●

Total Funding requirement **CHF 3.8M**

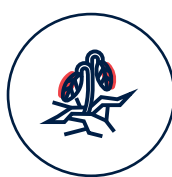
## Hazards



Climate Change



Violence



Economic hardship



Food insecurity



Displacement



A man taking food parcels from the Iraq Red Crescent volunteers for his family in Moula Berwan, Dohuk province. (Photo: IRCS)

# NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Iraqi Red Crescent Society** is an independent, volunteer-based organization that works to alleviate the suffering of Iraq's most vulnerable communities. It was established in 1932 and admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1934. As the largest humanitarian organization in Iraq, its knowledge of the country and the political landscape is vast. Its presence and local networks across the country are exceptionally well established, allowing the National Society to reach vulnerable populations who are not served by other humanitarian actors, including in remote areas. This nationwide coverage means the National Society can implement large-scale and long-term preparedness and response programmes, through 18 governorate branches and a national network of 13,005 volunteers who play a critical role at every stage of programming.

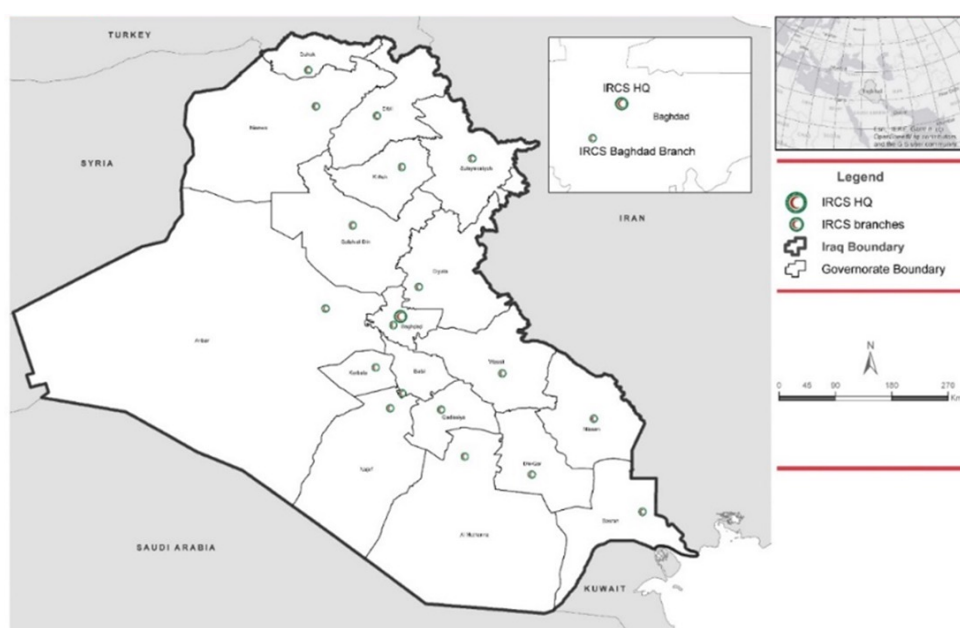
The Iraqi Red Crescent Society derives its mandate as an auxiliary to the public authorities' humanitarian efforts through the Iraqi Civil Code. The National Society functions as an autonomous, non-political, non-partisan organization, maintaining its independence. The country's authorities recognize the National Society as a first responder with responsibility for relief and health services in the first 72 hours after an emergency, and the National Society also heads the medical emergency response cell within displacement

camps. The National Society closely coordinates its actions with the public authorities and humanitarian organizations active in Iraq.

The main programmes run by the National Society include disaster management, first aid, preventive and curative health, water, sanitation and hygiene dissemination of international humanitarian law, youth activities, restoring family links, and awareness programmes for the explosive remnants of war. The Iraqi Red Crescent Society's current Strategic Plan identifies four key objectives, alongside priorities related to its institutional development:

- Upgrade and maintain diverse programmes, with a focus on recovery
- Build a better surveying and data analysis system
- Upscale the engagement with local communities and authorities
- Improve cooperation with local and international humanitarian actors

In 2022, the National Society reached more than 6.5 million people through its various long-term services and development programmes and 409,000 people through its disaster response and early recovery programmes.



Iraq Governorate map

*The map does not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the IFRC or the National Society concerning the legal status of a territory or its authorities*

# IFRC NETWORK ACTION

## JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

The protracted humanitarian crisis in Iraq remains one of the largest in the world, and although the number of people needing assistance has decreased, their needs are severe. The people most in need continue to be those who have been directly affected by conflicts, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the [outbreak of cholera in 2022](#). These include internally displaced persons, refugees, and returnees both inside and outside of camps, and host communities. The security situation continues to be precarious, and Iraq is one of the high-risk countries by the [INFORM index](#) due to the likelihood of conflict.

Six years after the end of the large-scale military operations against the [Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant \(ISIL\)](#), out of the [six million people displaced](#) during the 2014-2017 conflict, [five million](#) have returned to their homes. Although reconstruction and stabilization efforts have been initiated in the conflict-affected areas to promote the sustainable return of people, significant challenges and needs remain. This is particularly true for returnees who live in remote and disputed areas, due to limited government attention and resources for the provision of basic services. More than one million internally displaced persons have not yet found a sustainable path back home following the conflict. The most vulnerable live in abandoned, unfinished buildings and informal settlements. They lack access to healthcare and sanitation facilities, and face food insecurity and protection risks.

The years of conflict and economic stagnation have affected nearly every aspect of the society and give rise to social and political tensions. Many people have been unable to recover economically and have lost their resilience to overcome the crisis, which has affected access to food, drinking water, protection, education, hygiene, and shelter. A great number of vulnerable households had to adopt drastic measures to survive, reducing their number of meals, neglecting health care needs and accumulating debts. Many left their homes as they were unable to afford the rent.

Decades of war, sanctions, occupation, social instability, and the COVID-19 pandemic have left health systems fragile

and strained. Community-based surveillance and health management information systems are weak. There are shortages of trained health personnel, drugs, and other medical supplies. The availability of primary health care services is limited, and the health care infrastructure is either inadequate, damaged, or destroyed. The already complex humanitarian situation is compounded by outbreaks of acute watery diarrhea and cholera, as well as COVID-19 and Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever.

According to the UN Environment Programme, [Iraq is the fifth most vulnerable country in the world](#) to decreasing water and food availability and extreme temperatures. Extreme weather events such as heat, drought and dust storms are becoming more frequent and intense due to climate change. Environmental degradation is rising across the country and increased salination threatens agriculture on 54% of land. Despite historically being one of the Middle East's most water-rich countries, Iraq's water crisis is expected to persist and may bring humanitarian, economic, security and social consequences, including population movement. [Balancing the needs of the environment and agriculture in Iraq is a challenge](#), and the Iraqi Government faces challenges with management of plans. The security risks associated with water depletion could also be exacerbated by [drought](#) and climate change. Iraq is also prone to floods and earthquakes.

Gaps in the humanitarian response in Iraq are mostly due to a lack of funding, access, partner presence, camp closures and the reprioritization of assistance. Funding is declining dramatically and is currently insufficient to maintain core services in camps for internally displaced persons, much less to fill gaps in public services. Humanitarian organizations report deteriorating living standards in the communities affected. Although the situation remains precarious, there is general agreement that the focus needs to shift from humanitarian assistance to longer-term objectives and interventions. The humanitarian community in Iraq has taken several steps in support of this transition, scaling down the existing "whole system" international humanitarian assistance architecture. Through robust advocacy by the humanitarian community in Iraq, immediate gaps are filled, however challenges remain for medium to long-term planning, and more acute crises in other parts of the world compete for limited global resources.



# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



## Climate and environment

Iraq is experiencing severe climate and environmental crisis, impacting water availability, agriculture, livestock production and the fishing industry. The southern governorates in the delta of the Euphrates and Tigris rivers are the most severely impacted, where vulnerable communities are at risk of reduced livelihood opportunities and climate induced displacement/migration. Iraq has been named the fifth-most vulnerable country to climate change, affected by soaring temperatures, insufficient and diminishing rainfall, intensified droughts and water scarcity, frequent sand and dust storms, and flooding. Compounding this, water policies in neighbouring countries have shrunk vital water sources, while rapid population growth, urbanization, and inefficient water use by the agricultural and industrial sectors are propelling demand for more water.

Without preparation and planning, the scale of environmental change is likely to be devastating and may force Iraqis to relocate in order to survive. Climate migration is already a reality in Iraq. As of September 2023, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) recorded more than 130,788 individuals as displaced due to water scarcity in 12 governorates experiencing displacement, high salinity, and poor water quality across Iraq. The deteriorating water situation in Iraq has led to significant declines in agricultural productivity, livestock raising, and fishing activities, affecting the livelihoods and health of communities residing there. As environmental changes intensify, displacement is likely to increase exponentially. Most cities are not well prepared to absorb the recent (and increasing) influx of climate migrants.

Recent years have witnessed a higher frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, such as heat waves, drought, sand, and dust storms, leading to rising environmental degradation and socio-economic impacts throughout the country. Iraq is at high risk of suffering the worst effects of the climate crisis, including soaring temperatures and acute water scarcity. High temperatures and drastic reductions in precipitation are undermining water and food security in Iraq. Most of the agricultural activities take place in the alluvial plain has significantly shrunk over time because of drought. This imminent danger reinforces Iraq's fragile security context by threatening the livelihoods of millions of Iraqis, many of whom come from farming communities and are being pushed out of necessity towards urban areas.

In light of these changing conditions, the government has prioritized water and agriculture in its new climate policy. The Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) suggests investing in desalinization, reclaiming land to stop desertification, and increasing crop yields by introducing climate-smart agriculture.

This includes adapting advanced irrigation systems and encouraging drought-tolerant crop varieties.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Iraqi Red Crescent Society is part of the IFRC Global Climate Resilience Programme, which aims to foster an unprecedented scale-up in locally led, climate-smart, disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts to prevent and reduce climate-related disaster impacts and build community-level climate resilience. The programme aims to support 500 million people in 100 of the most climate-vulnerable countries, focusing on the least supported and marginalized communities. This holistic, multi-year programmatic approach consists of four operational pillars: (1) scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action and preparedness; (2) reducing the public health impacts of climate change; (3) addressing climate displacement; (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

The National Society's objectives also consist of communities and Red Cross and Red Crescent staff and volunteers undertaking urgent action to adapt to the rising and evolving risks from climate and environmental crises.

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### Planned activities in 2025

- Conduct National Climate Risk Assessment
- Conduct training of staff and volunteers on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and other topics related to anticipatory action and early warning system project
- Conduct awareness raising sessions on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in target communities
- Develop and distribute information, education, and communication (IEC) materials on climate sensitive health risks and related issues
- Conduct community anticipatory action planning workshops based on the hazards analysis containing sustainable actions at target-communities level
- Conduct risk assessments for multiple hazards taking into consideration the environmental impact
- Conduct risk assessments for multiple hazards taking into consideration the environmental impact (health, natural and human induced hazards)
- Conduct community Anticipatory Action Planning workshops based on the hazards analysis containing sustainable actions at target-communities level

- Development and distribution of IEC materials on climate sensitive health risks and related issues
- Support communities for the implementation of measures identified in the enhanced vulnerability and capacity assessments ([IFRC-eVCA](#)) and locally-led adaptation plans to reduce impacts of climate change

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** supports the Iraqi Red Crescent Society across its climate action and environmental sustainability efforts. This

includes increasing advocacy, broader awareness raising and networking with relevant government stakeholders. It also includes connecting the National Society with major initiatives, such as Early Warnings for All, in which the IFRC leads the pillar on preparedness and response capabilities.

The **Danish Red Cross** supports the National Society on climate-smart disaster risk reduction, and anticipatory action.

The **German Red Cross** supports the National Society on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation initiatives.



## Disasters and crises

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For real-time information on emergencies, visit IFRC GO page [Iraq](#).

The humanitarian crisis in Iraq drives massive food insecurity and profoundly affects the food system infrastructure, mainly due to the destruction of buildings and assets, and other commercial activities that provided income for the population. At least seven million people in Iraq have been affected by the effects of recurring droughts in recent times which took a massive toll on access to water, food, basic services, in addition to farmer livelihoods.

Food security is an ongoing concern in Iraq. It is estimated that approximately 1.77 million people in Iraq are susceptible to food insecurity. The complexity of climate change and its impacts on food security and livelihoods as well as the complexities of different contexts on the rural-urban continuum demand a holistic approach to climate-smart food security and livelihoods programming. Areas formerly under control of ISIL - which are now experiencing high rates of IDP return - are some of the most affected by water scarcity, and IDPs returning to these areas often struggle to stay due to the lack of livelihood options.

Climate change-induced disasters have different impacts on various segments of the population, depending on their level of exposure to hazards and threats, their vulnerability and ability to cope with the adverse impact of disasters, and the level of community resilience. Decades of conflict have caused massive environmental pollution and ecosystem degradation in the country. Iraq is ranked 115/182 in the [ND-Gain index](#), reflecting that the population is highly vulnerable to climate change with a low level of readiness. Climate change-induced disasters have different impacts on various segments of the population, depending on their level of exposure to hazards and threats, their vulnerability and ability to cope with the adverse impact of disasters and the level of community resilience.

With fewer resources to buffer against shocks and low investment in mitigation, the most vulnerable families suffer disproportionately when disaster strikes and among them vulnerable groups. This multitude of crises, disasters and risks facing Iraq on several fronts require preparedness on all levels, especially when it comes to legal, policy and institutional preparedness.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Iraqi Red Crescent Society seeks to enhance community resilience to shocks and hazards, while providing timely assistance and support to those affected by crises. The Iraqi Red Crescent Society continuously invests in its preparedness and readiness to respond to multiple and compounded hazards, including through the [Preparedness for Effective Response](#) (IFRC-PER) approach, and for cash and voucher assistance ([CVA](#)). It also aims to ensure a well-defined auxiliary role in [disaster risk management](#), and help improve the country's [disaster law](#) and frameworks.

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### Planned activities in 2025

- Implement enhanced vulnerability and capacity assessment ([eVCA](#)) in target communities
- Conduct training to build the capacity of the National Society staff and volunteers on community-based surveillance and community-based early warning system
- Provision of Emergency Response Kits to the disaster response teams
- Conduct school safety activities such as awareness sessions, development of evacuation plan and mock drills on evacuation in target schools
- Carry out preparedness for effective response ([PER](#)) activities

- Develop community-based disaster risk management plans for the local communities

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** supports the Iraqi Red Crescent Society across its disaster risk reduction and community resilience efforts. It supports the National Society's cash and voucher assistance ([CVA](#)) preparedness and readiness for response, recovery, and resilience interventions, including revision of standard operating procedures and assessing financial service providers. The IFRC also guides the National Society in the Preparedness for Effective Response ([PER](#)) approach and helps develop and implement a workplan based on the PER assessments results. IFRC mechanisms such as the Disaster

Response Emergency Fund ([IFRC-DREF](#)) and Emergency Appeals will be drawn on as needed for the National Society to respond to disasters and crises.

The **Danish Red Cross** supports the Iraqi Red Crescent on community-based disaster risk reduction and the implementation of CVA interventions for communities.

The **German Red Cross** supports the National Society on CVA interventions for communities.

The **Swedish Red Cross** supports the Iraqi Red Crescent Society with strengthening local response capacity and community-based disaster risk reduction, as well as capacity building of staff and volunteers in disaster preparedness.



## Health and wellbeing

As a result of years of conflict, Iraq's national health system suffers from constrained primary healthcare services. The crisis and conflicts damaged infrastructure including equipment and amenities which led to the disruption of the routine functioning of the facilities in the ISIL-affected areas in Iraq. The most cited challenge when attempting to access health services is the high cost of medicines or treatment. Food, water, sanitation and hygiene provision is inadequate, posing significant public health challenges and exacerbating protection risks. Health services are inadequate, with residents often necessitating outside referrals that the majority, however, cannot access due to movement restrictions.

Iraq is facing increasing challenges related to water scarcity and droughts, impacting living conditions and livelihoods of the population. This has a direct impact on [displacement](#), sustainability of IDPs, returns and social cohesion in areas which were affected by the conflict. Water scarcity stresses sanitation facilities and services in a country where water treatment and sanitation services are generally insufficient, particularly in rural areas. The stress water scarcity puts on WASH services deteriorates water quality and increases negative hygiene practices, leading to dehydration, impaired hygiene, and the increased likelihood of waterborne disease outbreaks. The quality of water people use for drinking and agriculture in Iraq is below the Iraqi National Standards and the standards listed in WHO guidelines.

In 2024, one of the greatest challenges facing Iraq is [water scarcity](#) driven by climate change, which is leading to decreased groundwater levels and reduced flows in major rivers. Overall, nearly 740,500 people need WASH services, including those facing severe water scarcity, along with those facing water borne diseases risks. Particularly in southern Iraq, communities face rapidly evolving water shortages,

which are displacing families and affecting services. Throughout the conflict, water management infrastructure was weaponised and, as ISIL controlled structures along the Euphrates, widespread damage occurred. Safe water remains a major concern for the IDPs and the host populations living in the target areas. The most acutely vulnerable displaced and returnee families are facing issues to access quality essential services, including primary and secondary health care, food, water, and sanitation, including safe drinking water.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Iraqi Red Crescent Society's objectives for the upcoming years consist of capitalizing its auxiliary role to ensure its position on relevant country-level public health strategy, advocacy and policy platforms and mechanisms. It will work to protect the health and wellbeing of communities through access to sustainable, affordable, appropriate, and quality health services. The National Society will also work to ensure that the health and dignity of communities in emergencies and disease outbreaks are maintained and that they have increased access to affordable, appropriate and environmentally sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene ([WASH](#)) services.

### Planned activities in 2025

- Work towards being officially recognized and appropriately positioned as members of relevant public health emergency preparedness and response coordination platforms
- Revise National Society health strategy/policy related to [epidemic and pandemic preparedness](#) and response



- Revise health and WASH priorities by drafting health strategy/policy and relevant National Society programme/operational plan
- Develop well-informed and context-specific risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) action plan guidance on preparedness and response
- Implement behaviour change and risk communication strategies to improve knowledge, attitude, and behaviours of the community on various health issues
- Enhance integration and enforcement of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) in various National Society programmes
- Provide first aid training for National Society volunteers
- Conduct capacity building sessions for community emergency response teams on MHPSS and first aid in target communities
- Procure and distribute hygiene kits among target communities
- Repair and rehabilitate existing water sources/water points and plants
- Develop capacity for emergency WASH preparedness in epidemics and pandemics including cholera through localized training

## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** supports the Iraqi Red Crescent in its positioning as a major provider of health care and WASH services in the country and supports the National Society to maintain fit-for-purpose health and WASH strategies and contingency plans. The IFRC also provides technical support as needed for community-based health and first aid, and epidemic preparedness and response.

IFRC mechanisms such as the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) and Emergency Appeals will be drawn on as needed for the National Society to respond to health emergencies, as was the case with the cholera outbreak which started in 2022.

The **Danish Red Cross** supports the National Society for community education such as on non-communicable diseases, safe motherhood, infectious diseases, and home-based care.

The **Norwegian Red Cross** assists the Iraqi Red Crescent Society on improving access to primary health care and pre-hospital services, and on community and school-based WASH interventions.



## Migration and displacement

Iraq has witnessed successive periods of displacement throughout modern history. The most notable displacement occurred as a direct result of terrorist attacks and sectarian violence in the country. Iraq saw unprecedented levels of displacement resulting from years of conflict, political, economic, and social instability. Iraq is currently hosting refugees from Syria, Turkey, Iran, Palestine, and Sudan. The distribution of refugees, as well as internally displaced people (IDPs) within Iraq, highly depends on the ethnic and religious background of the host community, as well as the relative stability and security of the area.

Following years of devastating conflicts and economic stagnation, millions of Iraqis remain still in need of humanitarian assistance, and the country's health system continues to be negatively impacted by its consequences. The Iraqi Council of Ministers came up with the decision to close all the remaining formal IDP camps located in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, offering a comprehensive package of incentives to encourage IDPs to voluntarily exit the camps. The closure of the camps entails withdrawing all GoI services provided to IDPs in and out-of-camps which includes operating health centres within

the camps and schools for both in- and out-of-camp students, as well as the payment of related staff salaries.

Concerns remain that the withdrawal of assistance may result in premature returns to areas of origin or IDPs moving to informal sites in areas of return or areas of displacement, should the key obstacles to durable solutions (shelter, livelihoods, access to services, security) remain unaddressed. Despite the financial incentive, many families are reluctant to leave because of continued violence in their places of origin, a lack of reconstruction following the destruction of their homes, and little in the way of basic services. Some who voluntarily left the camps have been forced to return, unable to piece together the basics. There are more than 630,000 IDPs in the Kurdistan Region, though most of them reside outside of the 23 camps established across Duhok, Erbil, and Sulaimani provinces. Meeting the health needs of vulnerable groups remains a key challenge, as investments under the Stabilization Fund focused mainly on supporting the infrastructural component of the health sector and did not address the availability of health services. Current health services in informal settlements, and soon in many formal

camps, will no longer be available to people in need, increasing morbidity and mortality amongst these populations and the risk of disease outbreaks within camps as well as host community.

Iraq faces increasing challenges related to water scarcity and droughts, impacting the living conditions and livelihoods of affected populations. This has a direct impact on displacement, sustainability of returns and social cohesion in areas that were affected by the conflict. Beyond impacts on livelihoods, climate induced migration has the potential to increase communal tensions in host communities, reduce community resilience and increase fragility in both areas of origin and locations of resettlement. Millions of people need access to WASH services in conflict-affected areas and in areas facing severe water scarcity and persistent cholera risks.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Iraqi Red Crescent Society provides support to internally displaced people and returnees, including through its regular programmes. The National Society seeks to ensure that displaced persons and other migrants, irrespective of their status, have continued access to humanitarian assistance and protection, as well access to durable solutions when appropriate. It also aims to engage displaced persons, migrants, and host communities to assess, understand, and respond to their priority needs more effectively.



## Values, power and inclusion

Iraq's long and tumultuous history of political unrest and waves of forced population movement have created a layered structure of displaced population groups across many communities. Particularly vulnerable groups include people without civil documentation, people with a perceived affiliation to the ISIL, female-headed households, women, children, older people, and people who live with disabilities. For people departing camps suddenly, and people with a perceived affiliation to ISIL, it is often difficult to reintegrate and find a safe, dignified life either in their areas of origin or elsewhere. Women, girls, persons with disabilities and other marginalised groups at a heightened protection risk, due to compounded factors such as stigmatisation and social norms, harassment, traumas arising from the conflict, and limited livelihood opportunities. The main protection risks they face include exploitation and abuse, gender-based violence, and human trafficking.

Gender-based violence is a key protection issue recognized by all humanitarian actors in Iraq. Women are often unable to fully participate in civil life and face heightened risks of discrimination and abuse. Iraq's wider context counts with existing patriarchal social structures and practices which include

### Planned activities in 2025

- Develop tools, guidance, and other documents to guide the engagement of National Society's migration and displacement initiatives
- Conduct training for National Society staff and volunteers on migration and displacement-related issues
- Ensure participation of concerned internally displaced peoples and other affected populations during needs assessment and planning process to learn their needs, concerns and perspectives

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the National Society with tailored training migration and displacement-related issues, as well as tools, guidance, and other documents to support the engagement of the National Society in the field of migration and displacement. It facilitates the National Society's participation in the Red Cross and Red Crescent Middle East & North Africa Migration Network ([MENA Migration Network](#)), and exchange of information and good practice across the IFRC network.

The **Danish Red Cross** supports the National Society on settlements and the concerns of IDPs around resilience, safety, and psychological wellbeing.

honour killings, child marriage, bridal exchange, restrictions on women's mobility in public spaces, two different forms of temporary marriage (among Muslim Shia populations) and, in certain areas of the country, low participation of women in labour and in secondary school enrolment.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Iraqi Red Crescent Society seeks to create positive change in communities by encouraging wider understanding, ownership, and concrete application of humanitarian values, especially among young people. It aims to ensure that all programmes and operations provide dignity, access, participation, and safety for everyone involved, including vulnerable groups, and are designed with child safeguarding in mind.

The National Society promotes the systematic application of agreed [minimum standards for protection, gender and inclusion in programmes and in emergencies](#), by targeting of vulnerable groups. It works to scale up efforts to address sexual and gender-based violence and establish and improve

systems for recording and monitoring prevention and response activities.

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### Planned activities in 2025

- Ensure protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) minimum standards in emergencies and in National Society plan
  - Increase community awareness on the prevention of gender-based violence and strive to fight stigmatization while strengthening the integration of prevention of gender-based violence into the humanitarian and emergency health response
  - Adhere to the Iraq gender-based violence (GBV) strategic plan 2022-2026
  - Work on the development of PGI and safeguarding policy
  - Ensure that programmes and operations provide dignity, access, participation and safety (DAPS) for all people affected
  - Carry out community engagement and accountability (CEA) assessments and activities with communities and ensure CEA standard operating procedures are in place as part of institutionalization
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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Iraqi Red Crescent Society in applying protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) principles and standards across its work, and to take concrete steps to ensure that all its programmes and services are inclusive and accessible for all vulnerable groups. This includes promoting safeguarding within programmes which can strengthen child safeguarding practices and reduce the risk of harm towards children as outlined in the IFRC Child Safeguarding Policy. It also includes support to scaling-up efforts to address sexual and gender-based violence.

The IFRC also provides support to ensure that the National Society is a safe, inclusive organization where dignity, access, participation, and safety for people of all identities are held as core values.

The **Danish Red Cross** supports the National Society in integrated multisector building resilience and in promoting social cohesion.

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## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Iraqi Red Crescent Society is committed to pursuing institutional strengthening and has carried out the self-assessment part of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (IFRC-OCAC) process twice; first in 2013, and again in 2021. The self-assessment is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities.

The Iraqi Red Crescent Society is also committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response (IFRC-PER) process, and is at the orientation phase. The PER approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyse the strengths and gaps of its preparedness and response mechanism, and take necessary action to improve it.



*Iraqi Red Crescent Society volunteers responding to the escalation of violence in Lebanon, 2024. (Photo: Iraqi Red Crescent Society)*



## Strategic and operational coordination

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### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Work on rolling out the IFRC MENA membership framework developed in 2021
- Improve coordination and support in respective technical working groups in areas such as disaster management, health, National Society development
- Continue sharing information about Movement coordination and its benefits at every level and among all Movement components under the unified plan
- Establish a reporting cycle with the governorate branches
- Provision of technical support by National Society headquarter to local branches on digitalization and innovation



## National Society development

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### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Work on capacity strengthening initiatives related to planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER), human resources, and finance
- Continue contribution to the yearly fundraising peer review
- Implement new tools, training, and establish periodic communication to enhance the timely submission of financial reports of the National Society
- Adopt and use digital fundraising platform

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC provides both technical and financial assistance to the Iraqi Red Crescent Society's efforts under strategic and operational coordination. This includes components such as collaborating with the National Society to roll out the membership framework, promoting shared leadership modalities of working to build on the experiences and lessons learned from implementing programme and operations, and supporting the National Society in its digitalization goals. The IFRC will support the National Society in establishing connections to leverage participation and representation in external coordination set-ups for Red Cross Red Crescent collective benefit. Coordinated planning is also facilitate as well as IFRC-wide reporting and outputs aimed at demonstrating collective impact.

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC support to the Iraqi Red Crescent Society consists of areas such as positioning the National Society with donors, advocating for the National Society to maximize partnerships with UN agencies, supporting the National Society's efforts to adopt and use digital fundraising platform, and implementing new tools, providing training and establishing periodic communication to enhance the timely submission of financial reports of the National Society. IFRC funding mechanisms such as the IFRC Capacity Building Fund (CBF), the National Society Investment Alliance (NSIA) and the Empress Shoken Fund enable National Society's to target development initiatives.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Review and update Humanitarian Diplomacy briefing note in coordination and consultation with all Movement partners
- Collaborate with Movement partners to develop tailored key messages for humanitarian diplomacy engagements such as pledging conferences and other high-level events, and bilateral dialogue with the Government
- Conduct advocacy for positioning the National Society in humanitarian coordination fora at country level
- Engage in dialogue with authorities and other humanitarian actors and amplify the voice of the National Society with the government
- Develop National Society Country Plan including all Movement partners and bilateral contributions

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

**The IFRC** supports the Iraqi Red Crescent Society's efforts under humanitarian diplomacy, working to ensure that the National Society leverages its auxiliary role to advocate for humanitarian interventions and to promote the role of the National Society. It works to ensure that the National Society is recognized as the primary responder to disasters in the country and supports the National Society in developing tailored key messages for humanitarian diplomacy engagements.

The **Danish Red Cross, German Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, and Swedish Red Cross** support the National Society on different development priorities and internal systems strengthening, based on their areas of expertise. The **Netherlands Red Cross** and the **Swedish Red Cross** will also support the Iraqi Red Crescent Society to adopt and use a digital fundraising platform.



## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Ensure that National Society staff and volunteers are sensitized on code of conduct, child safeguarding policy, child protection policy and prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) policy
- Conduct data and digital literacy training for National Society staff and volunteers
- Strengthening the National Society's information sharing and exchange experiences through the building of networks
- Build the capacity of the National Society to leverage digitalization, data control, monitoring and protection in programmes and operations to analyze and provide snapshots on utilization of technology

- Create a volunteer database
- Conduct a protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) organizational assessment
- Establish community feedback and response mechanism which allows people to provide suggestions, complaints, and opinions through preferred channels

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

**The IFRC** supports the Iraqi Red Crescent Society in integrity strengthening through the inclusion of compliance mechanisms and safeguarding. The IFRC also supports the National Society to undertake Protection Gender and Inclusion (PGI) organizational assessment, and to familiarize the staff and volunteers with the code of conduct, and with policies around child safeguarding, protection, and prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse.



# THE IFRC NETWORK

## The IFRC

The IFRC, through its country delegation, supports the Iraqi Red Crescent Society in its partners Task Force and other coordination mechanisms, as well as with strategy development and planning. It also promotes organizational development. The National Society undertook an IFRC-OCAC assessment in 2021, and this has informed the development of a new National Society development strategy. The IFRC also facilitates humanitarian diplomacy with UN agencies and

embassies in Iraq, and accountability, helping with planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting to stakeholders.

In recent years, IFRC supported the Iraqi Red Crescent through several Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) and Emergency Appeal [operations](#), in relation to population movement, disease outbreaks, earthquakes, floods, droughts, civil unrest, and technological hazards.

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## IFRC membership coordination

IFRC membership coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agreeing on common priorities; jointly developing common strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space; mobilizing funding and other resources; clarifying consistent public messaging; and monitoring progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need, incorporate clarity of humanitarian action, links with development assistance, and efforts to reinforce National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role.

Participating National Societies providing direct technical and financial support to the Iraqi Red Crescent include:

The **Danish Red Cross** is assisting the Iraqi Red Crescent on mental health and psychosocial support ([MHPSS](#)), cash and voucher assistance, health, and finance and administrative development.

The **German Red Cross** supports the National Society's cash activities to returnees in Ninawa in various ways, including multi-purpose cash assistance, and cash for work and shelter. It also supports the National Society in rehabilitating health and education facilities in Ninawa, as well as in volunteer management and insurance, and the management of resource mobilization.

The **Norwegian Red Cross** supports the National Society in the improvement of access to primary health care services and WASH in schools in Basra, Salahuddin and Ninawa. It is also working with the Iraqi Red Crescent on improved access to primary health care and pre-hospital services in Basra, Ninawa, Anbar and Baghdad, and is engaged in the ICRC [Health Care in Danger](#) initiative in Baghdad, Ninawa, Basra, Anbar and Wasit. The Norwegian Red Cross also provides financial development support to the National Society's headquarters.

The **Swedish Red Cross** works with the National Society to improve the durability of WASH interventions and incorporate environmental aspects. It does this by combining humanitarian, emergency, and recovery approaches. The Swedish Red Cross is also implementing a programme in partnership with the French Red Cross to strengthen the Iraqi Red Crescent local response capacity and community-based disaster risk management. Its core focus for capacity building is around systems for information management and planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting, [WASH](#), community engagement and accountability ([CEA](#)), and protection, gender and inclusion ([PGI](#)).

The **Turkish Red Crescent** provides support to the National Society under multi-purpose cash assistance, support to families returning from Turkey to Iraq, and in the installation of water filter-units under WASH. It also supports the National Society in livelihoods and economic recovery activities.

## Movement coordination

The Iraqi Red Crescent Society ensures regular exchanges with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross and participating National Societies, for the alignment of support and action between Movement partners. In times of emergencies, closer coordination is organized. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

In Iraq, the ICRC helps displaced people, refugees and civilians in places affected by fighting during times of crisis. It improves

access to clean water and health care, visits detainees and enables them to maintain contact with their families and supports the authorities' efforts to clarify the fate of people missing from earlier conflicts. The ICRC also supports the National Society in its development and operations, as a primary partner with a focus on the [Safer Access](#) approach. This approach promotes safer access to people affected by conflict and violence, while minimizing risks to staff and volunteers. The ICRC also continues to support the National Society in explosive remnants of war, relief stocks and other activities falling within its operational mandate.

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## Coordination with other actors

The Iraqi Red Crescent Society closely coordinates with the Iraqi Government and humanitarian organizations at National and Governorates level. The National Society coordinates its activities with the Prime-Minister's office, ministries, local governments/directorates in targeted governorates, and the Ministries of Health and Environment, Education, Displaced, and Reconstruction, as well as other national and international humanitarian organizations. The National Society, as an auxiliary to the Government, is a member of the National Disaster Response Committee chaired by the Government Department of Migration and Displacement.

Shelter and non-food household items, food clusters, and WASH cluster meetings are held every two weeks with national and international humanitarian organizations. These

meetings facilitate implementation in the field concerning the scope of support and identification of beneficiaries (avoiding duplication and enhancing synergies), to ensure that the National Society and the broader Red Cross Red Crescent stakeholders cooperate and collaborate where possible, with the considerable UN and I/NGO presence. The Iraqi Red Crescent Society has prioritized those agencies with which it engages, primarily the UN agencies. There is some engagement with the following the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) clusters: Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster, chaired by UNHCR; Shelter/NFI Cluster, chaired by UNHCR; and the Food and Nutrition Cluster, chaired by WFP, WHO - Health Cluster Emergency Response, and other humanitarian organizations with a significant presence in Iraq, though mostly based in KRI.



**The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)** is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 16 million volunteers. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

## About the plan

The plan reflects the priorities of the host National Society, the IFRC and National Societies providing international support, for 2025 and subsequent years. It is aligned with IFRC [Strategy 2030](#), representing the collective ambitions of the IFRC membership, and is the result of a joint planning process and will serve for joint monitoring and reporting. It will be revised on an annual basis to adjust priorities and funding requirements to the needs in-country.

## Explanatory note on funding requirements and definitions

- The total funding requirements show what the IFRC network seeks to raise for the given year through different channels: funding through the IFRC, through participating National Societies as bilateral support, and through the host National Society from non-IFRC network sources. All figures should include the administrative and operational costs of the different entities
- Host National Society funding requirements not coming from IFRC network sources can comprise a variety of sources, as demonstrated when reporting on income in the [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- Participating National Society funding requirements for bilateral support are those validated by respective headquarters, and often represent mainly secured funding
- IFRC funding requirements comprise both what is sourced from the IFRC core budget and what is sought through emergency and thematic funding. This includes participating National Societies' multilateral support through IFRC, and all other IFRC sources of funding
- Figures for the years beyond 2025 most often represent partial requirements that are known at time of publication. Many National Societies have annual internal approval processes for funding requirements, and lower figures do not mean a decrease in funding requirements in future years
- Missing data and breakdowns: data may not be available from all IFRC network members for funding requirements. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under-estimation of the efforts led by all
- Reporting bias: the data informing this Federation-wide overview is self-reported by each National Society (or its designated support entity) which is the owner and gatekeeper, and responsible for accuracy and updating. IFRC tries to triangulate the data provided by the National Societies with previous data and other data in the public domain
- **Definitions:**
  - » **Local units:** ALL subdivisions of a National Society that coordinate and deliver services to people. These include ALL levels (provincial, state, city, district branches, sections or chapters, headquarters, and regional and intermediate offices, as well as community-based units)
  - » **Branches:** A Branch has its roles, responsibilities and relationship with the National Headquarters defined through the National Society's Statutes, including the level of autonomy given, especially in the area of its legal status, mobilising local resources and building local partnerships, and the decisions it makes. It has a local-level decision-making mechanism through its Branch members, board and volunteers, equally defined through the National Society's Statutes

## Additional information

- [IFRC network country plans](#) • [All plans and reports](#)
- Data on National Societies on [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- Live data on active emergency operations on [IFRC GO platform](#)
- Live data on [IFRC-Disaster Response Emergency Fund Response and Anticipatory pillars](#)
- [Evaluations and research databank](#) • [Donor response reports](#)

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