




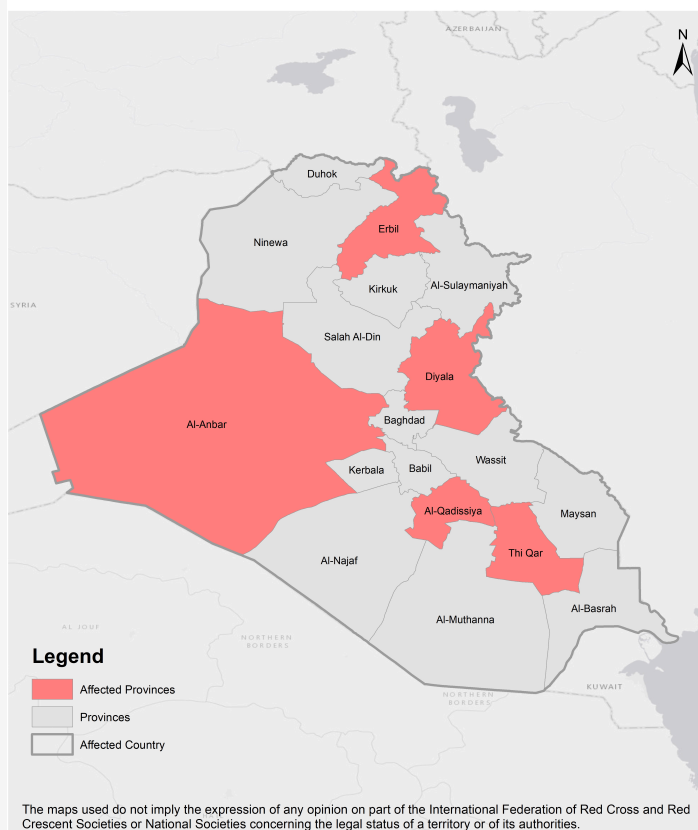
tarpaulin sheets distribution

Appeal: MDRIQ017	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 472,691	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Flood
Glide Number: FL-2025-000032-IRQ	People Affected: 31,000 people	People Targeted: 31,000 people	People Assisted: 31,000 people
Event Onset: Sudden	Operation Start Date: 24-03-2025	Operational End Date: 30-09-2025	Total Operating Timeframe: 6 months

Targeted Regions: **Anbar, Diyala, Erbil, Qadisiyah, Thi-Qar**

Description of the Event

 **Iraq: Floods**
March 2025



Date of event

07-03-2025

What happened, where and when?

On Thursday, March 7, 2025, most of the governorates of Iraq witnessed unprecedented heavy rains that lasted for three consecutive days, straining the capacity of the water channels and drainage networks which led to a rise in the water level and widespread flooding. Major cities such as Al Anbar, Erbil, Al Qadisiyyah, Diyala, and Thi Qar were affected, flooding streets, causing road disruptions, and the suspension of basic services, most notably sewage, power plants, potable water, and communications. Due to the severity of its impact, most governorates were forced to suspend the official working hours of schools and universities in order to ensure the safety of citizens.

In Baghdad, the heavy rainfall, which measured over 72 millimetres in just one hour, far surpassed the city's infrastructure limits, which can handle only between 24 and 38 millimetres per hour. Residential areas and roads were inundated, leading to traffic chaos and property damage. The Kurdistan Region also experienced widespread flooding, with reports of homes and businesses being affected. Authorities have been working to manage the emergency, but the scale of the flooding has overwhelmed local resources. Heavy flooding was also reported in Babil and Karbala governorates, where main roads are submerged, particularly in the cities.

In Diyala governorates, the consequences of extreme weather were compounded by an influx of floodwater. As per the media report, significant flooding from Iranian territory surged across the eastern border of Diyala, particularly affecting the sub-district of Qazaniya and the district of Mandali. The floods affected multiple areas, including Kalal Valley (also known as Greater Tarsaq Valley), as well as Oil Valley, Lima, Tahlaw, Mwailih, and Tarsaq. the torrential rains continue and

The Baghdad Operations Command announced a full mobilization, deploying specialized vehicles to assist municipal teams in draining floodwaters. Wasit Governor declared an emergency, placing municipal, civil defense, and emergency medical teams on high alert. He urged residents to avoid traveling between districts, particularly on highways, while assuring that there was no risk of flash floods in border areas. In Al-Muthanna, officials warned residents to limit movement unless necessary due to ongoing heavy rainfall. Emergency teams remain on high alert under direct orders from the governor to mitigate damage and restore normalcy as soon as possible.

The heavy rainfall and subsequent flooding have exacerbated the already dire conditions for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Bzeibiz

Camp in Al Anbar. Many IDP camps, which house families displaced by years of conflicts and instability, were severely affected by the floods. Temporary shelters were inundated, leaving families without proper safety and protection. Essential infrastructure, such as water and sanitation facilities damaged, further compromising the living conditions of the displaced population. In Anbar, where thousands of IDPs reside, the floods disrupted access to basic services and humanitarian aid, compounding their vulnerability. Similarly, in southern regions, IDP communities faced significant challenges as floodwaters overwhelmed their camps, forcing many to relocate once again.



Government authorities meeting with the relevant stakeholders (Photo: IRCS)



IRCS food assistance to the flood affected families (Photo: IRCS)

Scope and Scale

Iraq faced an increase in extreme weather events as a consequence of the ongoing global climate crisis. The impacts of changing weather patterns had already been felt in recent years, with increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events and rising environmental degradation throughout the country. The shift in weather patterns, attributed to global warming, led to unusual and intense rainfall, disrupting the typical climate cycle. This included longer periods of both drought and excessive rainfall, driven by higher evaporation rates due to elevated temperatures. Climate change-induced disasters had different impacts on various segments of the population, depending on their level of exposure to hazards, their vulnerability and ability to cope with adverse effects, and the level of community resilience.

This extreme weather event led to severe flooding in many governorates of Iraq, exacerbated by the lack of an adequate drainage system. As a result, rainwater not only flooded roads and streets but also penetrated residential and commercial properties. The situation worsened as nearby streams and rivers overflowed, unable to absorb the immense volume of water from the continuous downpour. This forced many residents to evacuate their homes and seek shelter elsewhere, relying on community support for assistance. The impact of the rainfall was devastating, with multiple media reports of collapsed mud houses in rural areas and water inundation in buildings, alongside disruptions to electricity and communication services. According to the Iraqi government, the torrential rains claimed five lives in different governorates. Additionally, twelve public hospitals in Baghdad were inundated and disrupted, preventing them from providing proper health services. These were the only public hospitals providing quality services to people visiting from different parts of the country. Based on the initial assessment reported by the Iraqi Red Crescent Society (IRCS), an estimated 5,000 households were severely affected.

In response to the floods that swept several Iraqi governorates, the IRCS, as of 11/3/2025, had deployed five mobile medical teams to provide emergency services in the flood-affected areas, where they provided first aid and essential medical services in coordination with the Iraqi Ministry of Health. In addition, the National Society distributed 5,000 food parcels and 2,250 hygiene kits to support displaced families and affected communities. As part of its assessment and response efforts, the IRCS deployed 20 field teams to conduct rapid needs assessments aimed at evaluating damage and humanitarian needs. The PSS and first aid teams also provided support to affected families to help mitigate the psychological effects of the disaster. In response to the harsh weather conditions, tarpaulin sheets were distributed to 50 affected families to protect them from heavy rains and improve their housing conditions.

Emergency response teams, including municipality workers and Civil Defense services, were deployed to rescue people who were stuck in their homes. The IRCS Head of the KRI in Erbil held a meeting with the Joint Crisis Coordination Centre (JCC) of the Kurdistan Regional Government along with relevant ministries.

Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
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1. Kurdistan24: Baghdad Struggles with Torrential Rainfall as Floodwaters Rise Across Iraq	https://www.kurdistan24.net/en/story/828562
2. National Post: Heavy rainfall causes floods in various parts of the Iraqi capital Baghdad	https://nationalpost.com/video/57012674-fbac-11ef-b0bd-4285d057461a/heavy-rainfall-causes-floods-in-various-parts-of-the-iraqi-capital-baghdad
3. Basnews: Severe Flooding Paralyzes Baghdad and Several Iraqi Provinces	https://www.basnews.com/en/babat/877349

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	The IFRC actively tracked and monitored the flooding situation in the country. Throughout the entire development process, the IFRC maintained close coordination. IRCS actively participated in coordination meetings and provided support for the governorate branches' preparation. The country delegation of IFRC in Iraq and MENA supported IRCS operation teams in conducting needs assessments and in the development of the IFRC-DREF application.
Participating National Societies	IRCS organized regular coordination meetings with Movement Partners to provide official updates on the flood disaster, share updates on the situation and highlight IRCS response efforts. Partners are operating in north of Iraq, but support health care, livelihoods, and cash activities mostly in IDPs areas.

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

ICRC is present in Iraq, however, is not operating in this emergency.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	In floods-affected governorates, the governor's office with the ministries established a coordination mechanism along with the MOH, MOE, and Ministry of Municipalities and Tourism. The Civil Defense Department engaged in the rescue and evacuation of people with the support of IRCS and other relevant authorities.
UN or other actors	There is no as such support declared by the UN and other humanitarian actors for the floods affected people.

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?
 Movement Coordination Mechanism for RCRC and sectoral coordination, government ministries and governorates offices.



Needs (Gaps) Identified



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Findings from the rapid damage and needs assessment conducted by the IRCS and the government authorities indicated that many families were completely displaced due to severe damage to their houses. As a result, many families were forced to evacuate to the temporary residence buildings provided by the government authorities, some families with their relatives and in the host communities. As per the IRCS and the government assessment around 5,000 families are severely affected by the floods across five targeted governorates, Al Anbar, Erbil, Al Qadisiyyah, Diyala, and Thi Qar. The impact of the flooding is extensive, resulting in substantial losses for affected households. Many families lost essential supplies and household items crucial to their daily lives, including food stocks, and other household items submerged in flood waters.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

The assessment revealed that the damages to businesses were severely impacting the livelihoods of the affected areas. In many areas floods washed away goods, household equipment, and basic necessities, leaving households struggling with income difficulties, further compounded by the lack of essential items. The affected families are living under extremely difficult conditions. These included the disruption of their living environment and food shortages. Given this situation, 5,000 households (31,000 people) identified food needs for at least one month as essential for these households.



Multi purpose cash grants

IRCS assessment revealed that the 200 most affected households were identified as severely damaged by the floods. To preserve the dignity of the affected families, those who lost their houses or were severely damaged by the floods will receive multi-purpose cash assistance for the rehabilitation of their destroyed shelters, food, health care, repaying debt, and house renting. This support will be provided through a one-time cash transfer as per Iraq Cash Forum - MEB value is CHF 205 (300,000 IQD), by engaging a financial service provider, based on the criteria during the assessment phase.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

There is a disruption of water supply and sanitation infrastructure in communities affected by the floods in target governorates. The contamination of existing streams and water sources exacerbated the potential epidemiological risks associated with the disaster. Immediate needs included ensuring access to safe drinking water, improving hygiene practices, and enhancing sanitation facilities, especially in evacuation centers. The displaced families lacking with appropriate hygiene and sanitation, posing a significant health risk. It is therefore necessary to provide access to safe and clean water, basic hygiene kits, and dignity kits, as well as to promote proper hygiene practices. Water sources are also contaminated by the floods yet affected populations. With drinking water sources and latrines affected, it became crucial to engage inhabitants in hygiene promotion and sensitization efforts. It is imperative to strengthen measures to safeguard water quality, sanitation, and hygiene. These measures include proper handwashing with soap and water, adequate disinfection of drinking water, and the provision of hygiene essentials such as hygiene kits, water storage containers for safe water consumption, and menstrual hygiene kits for women of childbearing age. Households also face limitations in accessing basic hygiene materials due to both the lack of supplies and the challenging living conditions. 3,000 households will be provided with hygiene kits and awareness-raising sessions in targeted communities.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Access to necessities, services, and security is a challenge for the affected population. However, this is further exacerbated for vulnerable population groups such as women and girls, children, displaced individuals, migrants, refugees, persons with disabilities, and religious and ethnic minorities. With limited on-the-ground access to the most affected governorates. There is limited information available on the different and diverse population groups present and affected in the areas, which limits a more tailored approach at the planning stage. IRCS teams are constantly striving to ensure the inclusion of vulnerable populations (persons with disability, pregnant and lactating women, elderly heads of households, and widows) into their interventions. This operation will ensure equitable access to both genders.

In addition, data collection tools included gender disaggregation where possible. An integrated strategy will be adapted to mainstream



gender protection and inclusion. Special attention will be paid to the most vulnerable groups, e.g., women and children, ensuring their needs are met. Protection concerns for marginalized groups are further aggravated in such an erratic setting, including risks of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). Referral pathways to services for SGBV are, therefore needed, and detailed assessments need to be sensitive to PGI considerations.



Community Engagement And Accountability

In the context of IRCS flood response operation, addressing the needs for community engagement and accountability is paramount. Establishing effective communication channels is crucial, ensuring that information about the operation, including emergency contacts and relief distribution points, is disseminated. Through this operation, the IRCS will integrate CEA minimum standards that help ensure the community (affected population) is an integral part of the whole operation, by integrating communication and participation throughout the whole response cycle. IRCS has started with the rapid needs assessment to understand the immediate impact of the floods as well as the community needs and preferences in order to design a relevant intervention.

During the implementation, IRCS supported by IFRC, and through different and community-preferred communication channels including help desks, suggestion boxes, and a hotline will ensure collection of community feedback, analyse it, respond to it, and make the necessary course corrections. Moreover, and in coordination with PMER, satisfaction surveys will be conducted either as stand-alone or as part of the regular monitoring activities. The IRCS will continue to provide risk communication and community engagement activities related to the outbreaks in close collaboration with the health department and through preferred channels and in the preferred languages. Regular community meetings will be organized to update residents on the progress of the response operation, address concerns, and gather feedback. Information dissemination through diverse channels, including local media, community leaders, and social media, is crucial for reaching a wider audience. Engaging local volunteers from the affected community in various stages of the operation fosters a sense of ownership and connection. Establishing transparent accountability mechanisms allows the community to hold IRCS accountable for the quality and effectiveness of the flood response.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

The flood response operation aimed to replenish the Iraqi Red Crescent Society (IRCS) stocks that were mobilized during the immediate response launched on 7 March 2025, following the severe rainfall and flooding that affected multiple governorates across Iraq. The intervention focused on the five most impacted governorates—Al Anbar, Erbil, Al Qadisiyyah, Diyala, and Thi Qar—where widespread flooding displaced families, damaged shelters, and disrupted access to essential services.

To address the urgent needs of affected households, the IRCS provided food assistance to 5,000 families, distributed 50 tarpaulins to support internally displaced families living in vulnerable shelter conditions, and delivered 3,000 hygiene kits to help mitigate public health risks arising from the floods. The response also included the procurement of 200 tents to replace those that were damaged in IDP camps, targeting approximately 1,240 people whose shelters were rendered uninhabitable. In parallel, multipurpose cash assistance was provided to 200 households—also reaching around 1,240 individuals—to enable families to meet their immediate and most pressing needs with flexibility and dignity. Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) activities were integrated throughout the operation, ensuring safe and equitable access to assistance while strengthening communication and feedback mechanisms with affected communities.

Operation strategy rationale

To address the immediate needs of the flood-affected populations, the IRCS distributed 5,000 food parcels, 3,000 hygiene kits, and 50 tarpaulins to the IDP families affected by the floods. This operation ensured the smooth replenishment of the IRCS stocks that were initially mobilised for the flood response in the five affected governorates. The IRCS also procured 200 tents to replace the damaged tents in IDP camps and provided multipurpose cash assistance to 200 households, given the significant gaps in reported figures of affected families and the nuanced needs identified through initial IRCS rapid assessments and information shared by government authorities.

The IRCS response strategy was designed to address the unmet needs of the flood-affected population in Al Anbar, Erbil, Al Qadisiyyah, Diyala, and Thi Qar. The response focused on replacing damaged tents in IDP camps, providing food assistance, multipurpose cash assistance, and WASH interventions. Through this approach, the IRCS aimed to complement and enhance existing relief efforts. The emphasis on gender inclusivity, risk reduction, climate adaptation, and recovery aligned with a holistic strategy that not only met immediate needs but also contributed to long-term community well-being for those hardest hit by the catastrophic floods.

The IRCS followed standard processes and cash disbursement procedures, including digital surveys, information analysis, cash distribution, and post-distribution monitoring (PDM), among other steps. The Society deployed personnel from its CVA-trained pool to assist in implementing cash interventions, with monitoring support from the IFRC. After the flash floods in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq,



the IRCS was mandated by government authorities to assist the most affected families in meeting their basic needs and restoring their livelihoods. Multipurpose cash assistance of CHF 205 (IQD 300,000), aligned with the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB), was distributed based on loss and damage assessments to support each family. This cash assistance enabled them to secure healthcare, education, food, and shelter. In addition, many households used the cash not only for their immediate needs but also to rebuild their businesses and other livelihoods that had been interrupted or destroyed by the floods.

The IRCS leveraged its expertise, with IFRC support, in logistics, food and cash assistance, and resilience-building to respond to immediate needs and to support the recovery of flood-affected populations, thereby helping communities rehabilitate critical assets and livelihoods. Cash assistance was disbursed through a third-party Financial Service Provider, a mechanism that had been effectively used by the IRCS in previous cash distributions with partner support. The IRCS implemented this approach with IFRC assistance and used the Kobo Toolbox to maintain maximum transparency and accountability. In WASH interventions, the main focus was ensuring access to safe drinking water, distributing hygiene kits, and conducting awareness-raising sessions in targeted areas.

Targeting Strategy

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The selection criteria for the targeted population in the IRCS flood response operation in Al Anbar, Erbil, Al Qadisiyyah, Diyala, and Thi Qar were based on a combination of vulnerability, assessed needs, and exposure to risk.

The following criteria guide the selection process:

- Priority was given to individuals and families residing in areas directly affected by the flooding, identified through geographic mapping and field assessments that highlighted the most severely impacted locations.
- Families who had been displaced by the floods were prioritized, particularly those who suffered significant losses such as destroyed shelters, limited access to clean water, or elevated health risks.
- Vulnerable groups—including women, children, elderly individuals, people with specific needs, as well as migrants, refugees, and ethnic minorities—were identified and targeted to ensure that their heightened vulnerabilities were addressed in the relief efforts.
- The IRCS conducted detailed needs assessments to determine the specific requirements of the affected populations, including needs related to cash assistance, food security, clean water, hygiene, and emergency shelter. Priority was given to families and individuals who had not received support from other organisations or local authorities.

Close coordination with local communities and authorities helped the IRCS understand the local context and refine the targeting approach, while community engagement ensured that the selection process remained culturally sensitive and aligned with local priorities. These criteria were designed to ensure that assistance reached those most in need and at highest risk, enabling the IRCS to respond effectively to both the immediate and longer-term challenges faced by the flood-affected populations across the five governorates.

Total Assisted Population

Assisted Women	-	Rural	50%
Assisted Girls (under 18)	-	Urban	50%
Assisted Men	-	People with disabilities (estimated)	3%
Assisted Boys (under 18)	-		
Total Assisted Population	31,000		
Total Targeted Population	31,000		



Risk and Security Considerations (including "management")

Please analyse and indicate potential risks for this operation, its root causes and mitigation actions.

Risk	Mitigation action
The impact of the sociopolitical situation, e.g., (demonstrations, attacks, and disruptions in operation activities) could lead to movement restrictions, operation delays, the occurrence of security incidents limiting access etc.	The IRCS security framework will apply throughout the duration of the operation to their staff and volunteers. Context analysis will be done regularly to assess the situation. All possible efforts to secure access and acceptance will be explored in advance through coordination and communication with the conflicting parties.
Prolonged displacement can lead to increased vulnerability, mental health issues, and challenges in providing adequate shelter for displaced families.	IRCS will support the government with the shelter response interventions.
Marginalized and vulnerable groups, particularly women, and disabled face barriers/obstacles in relation to participation in response operations.	Flexibility in operation implementation to adapt to evolving needs and more appropriate timing for specific interventions. Regular operation response reviews with stakeholders to gauge progress, interest, and relevance. Ensure Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA).
Stagnant water in flooding areas can give rise to waterborne diseases, posing a health risk to the affected population.	Prioritize the distribution of clean water, conduct regular health awareness campaigns on water sanitation and hygiene practices and health related issues promptly.
Delays in the financial and narrative reporting from the NS.	Country delegation and the RO to organize regular meetings and follow up with the NS for timely implementation of the response activities.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation:

Iraq is at a turning point, leaving behind the effects of three decades of political turmoil and armed conflicts that deeply impacted its people. The country has been experiencing relative stability and advancing towards sustainable development but continues to face protracted humanitarian and development needs, as well as a volatile security situation.

Over 1 million Iraqis are internally displaced, with approximately (109,000) IDPs living in 21 camps in the KRI. While many IDPs hope to return to their homes, many may be unable or unwilling to do so because of their specific profiles or the situation in their areas of origin, while the programme and operations funding needs have not been met. There is no high risk of security for the operational staff and volunteers.

IRCS is very well accepted among the communities and is well connected with the local communities and government authorities in flood affected areas. In terms of Child Safeguarding Risk Analysis, the IRCS follows the IFRC guidelines and policies. Putting the community at the centre of intervention, a community-led approach will embrace by beneficiaries with great enthusiasm to support response activities following the end of operation funding. To provide an effective and well-coordinated regional and governorates coverage in complex emergency crises, the primary role, functions, and relationship of IRCS governorate branches will be clearly defined. The extensive needs in Iraq make IRCS's experience relevant and makes them a strategic aid partner to provide service delivery and build capacity of the government line departments and local community.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?	No
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Implementation



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Budget: CHF 79,077
Targeted Persons: 1,240
Assisted Persons: 1,240
Targeted Male: -
Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of families reached with the tents in flood affected areas	200	200
# of tents distributed and replaced in the IDPs camps	200	200

Narrative description of achievements

The flood damaged the infrastructure, including equipment and amenities, disrupting the daily lives of the families in the affected areas.

- During the response, the IRCS procured and replaced 200 damaged tents and distributed 50 tarpaulins in the Bzeibz camp in the Ameriyat Al-Somoud District in Anbar Governorate.
- Monitoring results indicated high satisfaction among beneficiaries with the tent distribution process. Among participants, 96% reported being very satisfied and 4% satisfied. All respondents confirmed that they received sufficient guidance from the Iraqi Red Crescent Society on how to set up the tents, and that the tents provided were of good quality. Beneficiaries also noted that the tents effectively protected their families from rain and wind, demonstrating both the quality and the practical impact of the assistance.

Lessons Learnt

- Maintaining adequately stocked and well-distributed emergency shelter supplies is critical for rapid response.
- Faster procurement processes and stronger logistics planning are needed to ensure timely replenishment of stocks.

Challenges

- Access constraints in some affected areas hampered shelter activities.
- Delays in internal procurement approvals affected the timely replenishment of stocks.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Budget: CHF 136,586
Targeted Persons: 31,000
Assisted Persons: 31,000
Targeted Male: -
Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
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# of households reached with food assistance for basic needs	5,000	5,000
# of livelihood household items distributed (segregated by item)	5,000	5,000

Narrative description of achievements

- 5,000 food parcels were procured and stored in IRCS warehouses as a replenishment to those distributed by the National Society in the governorates of Erbil, Diyala, Anbar, Diwaniyah, and Dhi Qar during the floods.
- As part of the monitoring, beneficiaries expressed high satisfaction with the food distribution process. Among participants, 84% reported being very satisfied and 16% satisfied. All respondents (100%) confirmed that the food items provided by the Iraqi Red Crescent Society were sufficient to meet their basic needs, of good quality, and appropriate for their dietary habits. Beneficiaries also recommended that the food distribution be repeated regularly and multiple times, highlighting its significant contribution to meeting their nutritional needs.

Lessons Learnt

- Improved inventory systems enhanced coordination between headquarters and branches.
- Adherence to FIFO (First-In, First-Out) and quality rotation was identified as an essential best practice.
- Enhancing supply chain efficiency is critical to avoiding waste and ensuring timely, high-quality support in future emergencies.

Challenges

- Procurement delays and warehouse management weaknesses, including the discovery of expired or near-expiry stock, revealed systemic inventory challenges.
- Access constraints in some governorates also affected timely delivery of aid.



Multi Purpose Cash

Budget: CHF 47,126
Targeted Persons: 1,240
Assisted Persons: 1,240
Targeted Male: -
Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of families reached with multipurpose cash assistance for basic needs	200	200
% of families assisted who were able to meet their basic needs	85	100

Narrative description of achievements

- A rapid socio-economic assessment was conducted to identify the needs of families affected by the heavy rainfall and flooding in Bazibz displacement camps, Amiriyah al-Sumood District, Al-Anbar Governorate. The survey took place over four days, from May 11 to May 14, 2025. A team of ten trained volunteers (8 males and 2 females) carried out the assessment under the supervision of the Operations Management Office in the Al-Anbar branch and the Amiriyah office. The assessment collected information on household composition, shelter conditions, basic needs, income sources, coping strategies, and access to essential services, providing a basis for delivering targeted cash assistance to the affected families.
- As a result, cash assistance was distributed to 200 families, with a total amount of 60,000,000 IQD, at a rate of 300,000 IQD per family in the Bzeibz camp for families affected by the flood.
- As part of the post-distribution monitoring, 25 households were surveyed. The results showed high satisfaction among beneficiaries



with the multi-purpose cash assistance. Regarding the Mastercard distribution, 100% of participants reported being satisfied and indicating no suggestions for improvement. Some beneficiaries faced challenges activating their cards due to the need for a smartphone and internet access, as this was their first experience using bank cards for cash distribution. All participants reported no problems during cash withdrawals; however, they had to travel 7 kilometers to the district center because there were no withdrawal points within the camp. All respondents confirmed that the cash assistance was sufficient to meet their basic needs for only one month. In terms of community engagement, 84% of participants were very satisfied and 16% satisfied with the information provided, and all were aware of the inquiry and complaint mechanisms. Beneficiaries expressed gratitude to the Iraqi Red Crescent Society for distributing the Mastercard cards, which now enable them to access government oil rations through the app developed by the FSP company and to receive money from relatives.

Lessons Learnt

The experience highlighted the need for stronger and more predictable cash delivery systems within the National Society. Establishing a formal Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the contracted FSP, including clear performance standards and expectations, emerged as essential to ensure timely and reliable service provision. Additionally, the operation demonstrated the importance of having a pre-approved backup FSP to guarantee service continuity in case of technical, administrative, or coverage-related disruptions.

At the internal level, the delays underscored the necessity of introducing a fast-track approval process for emergency cash-related procedures. Streamlining legal and administrative workflows—particularly those involving procurement and authorization—will be critical to reducing bottlenecks and enabling more rapid implementation in future operations.

Challenges

The MPCA component experienced delays in cash distribution due to a combination of FSP-related and internal procedural challenges. To address issues encountered in previous DREF operations - such as limited national coverage, weak connectivity, and technological requirements that were difficult for many beneficiaries—the National Society switched to a new FSP with broader national coverage and Visa-enabled withdrawals accessible through any ATM. While this change aimed to resolve earlier obstacles, it was a pilot arrangement for the National Society and required additional adjustments during rollout, resulting in continued implementation delays.

Internally, cash distribution was further slowed by structural and procedural constraints within IRCS. Although the necessary tools and human capacities are available, a clear internal structure for CVA implementation is still lacking. Legal and administrative processes remain lengthy, requiring multiple layers of approval across several departments before activities can begin. This bureaucratic bottleneck significantly slowed the timeline for cash distribution, even after the FSP contract was signed.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 99,311

Targeted Persons: 18,600

Assisted Persons: 28,300

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of assessment of water, sanitation and hygiene situation in targeted communities carried out	5	10
# of individuals in the targeted population reached with awareness-raising activities	18,600	28,300
# of hygiene kits distributed to targeted households	3,000	4,174
# of households trained on the use of the hygiene kits	3,000	4,174



Narrative description of achievements

Following the floods, IRCS implemented a comprehensive WASH intervention aimed at addressing urgent sanitation, hygiene, and safe water needs among affected communities. The first phase of the response included 10 rapid field assessments -two conducted in each of the five affected governorates- to understand the extent of damage and identify priority needs. These assessments revealed widespread flooding of homes and roads, contamination of household water sources, stagnant wastewater, malfunctioning septic systems, and weakened sanitation infrastructure. In locations such as Bzebiz Camp in Anbar, water contamination, sewage overflow, and damage to tents were prominent, while communities in Dhi Qar and Diwaniyah reported the mixing of floodwater with sewage and significant disruptions to safe water access. The findings formed the evidence base that guided the design of the WASH intervention.

Based on the assessment results, IRCS launched community-based awareness sessions across the five targeted governorates, supported by the production and dissemination of nearly 9,600 educational materials—including F-Diagram posters and handwashing guidance sheets—which were used throughout 660 hygiene awareness sessions. Trained volunteers delivered these sessions using the standardized materials to promote key hygiene and disease-prevention practices. The activities focused on proper handwashing with soap at critical times, safe use of latrines, safe water handling, waste management, and behaviors that prevent waterborne diseases such as cholera. Volunteers conducted practical demonstrations for households and community groups, and facilitated dedicated sessions for women and children to ensure inclusive and accessible hygiene education. In total, 28,300 people benefited from these WASH-related health and hygiene promotion activities.

Complementing the awareness sessions, IRCS carried out the distribution of 4,174 hygiene kits, ensuring that affected families had the supplies needed to practice good hygiene despite damaged infrastructure and limited access to clean water. Kits were distributed in all targeted governorates, including hard-hit areas in Dhi Qar(1,082 kits), Bzebiz Camp in Anbar (393 kits), rural communities in Diyala (782 kits), and flood-affected neighborhoods in Erbil (393 kits) and Diwaniyah (1,524 kits). Each kit adhered to SPHERE minimum standards and included items such as soap, laundry detergent, personal hygiene supplies, a bucket with lid, towels, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and waste bags. During distribution, volunteers provided on-the-spot training on the correct use of kit contents, reinforced hygiene messages, and explained practices for safe water storage and household environmental sanitation. This integration of training with distribution ensured that families not only received supplies but also understood how to use them effectively to reduce health risks.

Additionally, capacity-building workshops for 56 volunteers were conducted in four governorates, enhancing technical knowledge on WASH in emergencies, community engagement, and hygiene promotion in order to conduct awareness sessions. Furthermore, a Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) exercise reached 630 households, confirming that 100% of families received their kits without any form of exploitation, that nearly all households used the kit contents appropriately, and that satisfaction levels with kit quality were extremely high. The PDM also verified that hygiene messages were understood and applied, with communities reporting increased knowledge on cholera prevention and strong adoption of key hygiene practices.

Lessons Learnt

- Establish fast-track internal procurement mechanisms to ensure timely deployment of essential WASH items during emergencies.
- Conduct integrated planning among relevant departments—including WASH, Disaster Management, and Communications—before project implementation.
- Standardize assessment tools and strengthen the technical capacities of data volunteers, particularly in digital tools like Kobo, for efficient data management.
- Prioritize practical, hands-on training over purely theoretical sessions to better prepare staff and volunteers for real-world scenarios.

Challenges

- Procedural delays related to internal approval processes for procuring WASH supplies.
- Limited time coordination between certain stages of the training workshops, causing minor delays in some sessions.
- Constraints in logistical resources, particularly in remote areas such as the marshlands.
- Gaps in digital data documentation and lack of standardization in field forms.
- Weaknesses in post-distribution follow-up mechanisms in some branches.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 21,300

Targeted Persons: 1

Assisted Persons: 1

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -



Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of movement coordination meeting conducted	2	2
# of monitoring visits conducted	5	5
# of child safeguarding analysis	1	1

Narrative description of achievements

- Throughout the operation, Programme and Operations Manager, with the support of the MENA regional Health, Disaster, Climate, and Crises (HDCC) team and in regular coordination with the national society, provided technical support and backstopping for implementation of Cash and Voucher Assistance and PSS activities, procurement procedure and financial processes with IRCS technical teams.
- As part of the IRCS transparency mechanisms, five field monitoring visits were conducted to follow up on planned actions, ensure the implementation of activities with quality standards, and analyse potential areas for improvement.
- A Lessons Learned Workshop (LLW) was conducted by PMER Regional office and IFRC country delegation over two days in September 2025, bringing together headquarters staff, branch focal points, WASH specialists, CVA/FSP team members, M&E staff, leadership, and the IFRC Head of Country Delegation. Additionally, throughout the operation, regular meetings were organized with the NS to discuss progress and challenges faced and appropriate mitigation actions were identified and carried out to address challenges, if any, as effectively as possible.
- Child safeguarding Risk Analysis was conducted during the operation to identify and rate their child safeguarding risks. With this information, operations can strengthen their child safeguarding practices and reduce the risk of harm against children as outlined in the IFRC Child Safeguarding Policy. IRCS also signed Child Safeguarding Risk Analysis as their commitment to ensure for the future operations.

Lessons Learnt

- Early coordination with IFRC delegation supported timely DREF application submission and approval processes
- Regular monitoring and supervision processes play a crucial role in allowing for the provision of more information that provides real time feedback on the actions implemented by management teams in the field.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 89,291

Targeted Persons: 0

Assisted Persons: 0

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of PDM conducted	2	3
# of LLW conducted	1	1
# of volunteers insured	100	100



Narrative description of achievements

- To strengthen the IRCS capacity, IFRC in country and RO technical colleagues organised meetings with the NS to provide them support on operational activities. Initial planning was done, and coordination was established at the National Headquarters. The IRCS was also able to strengthen its operational and volunteer management capacities through the acquisition of essential resources for the care and proper identification of teams involved in field activities.
- IRCS media teams documented the DREF activities including distributions and produced comprehensive coverage of the implementation. Follow-up content on the DREF operation was subsequently disseminated through the organization's website and official social media channels, including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, to ensure visibility, transparency, and public awareness.

Lessons Learnt

- Updating and standardizing SOPs across sectors, reinforcing MEAL and information management systems, and establishing clear community focal points are essential to avoid conflicting communication.
- Strong collaboration between different departments, along with close coordination between headquarters and branch offices in affected governorates, improved the integration, efficiency, and consistency of relief activities.
- Strong branch networks and mobilization of volunteers were critical in reaching affected communities quickly.
- Formalizing access arrangements through MoUs with local authorities is necessary for smooth operations.
- Faster internal procurement processes and stronger logistics planning are needed to avoid delays in replenishment.
- Improving supply chain management is critical to ensure timely, high-quality support in emergencies.

Challenges

- Structural issues such as outdated or missing emergency SOPs, gaps in data management, and fragmented community coordination created operational friction.
- Some branches faced barriers due to interference from local leaders or limited access agreements with local authorities.



Financial Report

DREF Operation

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2025/3-2025/11	Operation	MDRIQ017
Budget Timeframe	2025/3-2025/11	Budget	APPROVED

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 07/Jan/2026

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRIQ017 - Iraq - Flood

Operating Timeframe: 24 Mar 2025 to 30 Sep 2025

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	472,691
DREF Response Pillar	472,691
Expenditure	-367,989
Closing Balance	104,702

II. Expenditure by planned operations / enabling approaches

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items	74,250	79,076	-4,826
PO02 - Livelihoods	128,250	136,604	-8,354
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash	44,250	47,126	-2,876
PO04 - Health			0
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	93,250	96,116	-2,866
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion			0
PO07 - Education			0
PO08 - Migration			0
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	28,850		28,850
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability			0
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability			0
Planned Operations Total	368,850	358,923	9,927
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships			0
EA02 - Secretariat Services	20,000	2,360	17,640
EA03 - National Society Strengthening	83,841	6,707	77,134
Enabling Approaches Total	103,841	9,066	94,775
Grand Total	472,691	367,989	104,702



Contact Information

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