



CBRN awareness session with Military Authorities

Appeal: MDRIQ018	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 80,000	Hazard: Population Movement	Country: Iraq
People at Risk: 150,000 people	People Targeted: -	People Assisted: 8,268 people	Event Onset: Sudden
Operation Start Date: 25-06-2025	Operational End Date: 31-08-2025	Total Operating Timeframe: 45 days	Publication Date: 11-03-2026

Targeted Regions: **Anbar, Baghdad, Basrah, Diyala, Missan, Muthanna, Thi-Qar, Wasit**

Event development

Update regarding the event's development

Based on the considerable uncertainty and the risks identified during the assessment, the activation of the Imminent DREF was fully justified, even though the anticipated situation did not evolve into a large-scale emergency in Iraq. Early assessments identified potential population movements, pressure on essential services, and CBRN-related hazards, including radiological exposure risks across several governorates. These scenarios had the potential to cause serious, lasting consequences for public health, the environment, and access to essential services. Although the situation eventually stabilized and no major displacement or CBRN incident occurred, the overall risk environment remained unpredictable, underscoring the need for strengthened anticipatory action. The Imminent DREF enabled IRCS to implement essential readiness actions tailored to the identified risks.

Through this operation, the IRCS enhanced its capacity to respond to population movement and CBRN-related emergencies by training staff and volunteers, improving coordination with relevant authorities, and raising community awareness of protective measures. The early action activities also reinforced continuity planning for essential services—particularly healthcare and food supply—identified as highly vulnerable in initial assessments. While the anticipated emergency did not materialize, the anticipatory actions significantly improved national response capacity, strengthened institutional systems, and increased community resilience. These proactive actions ensure that the IRCS is better positioned to respond rapidly and effectively should similar risks emerge in the future.

Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. Crisis24: Critical Alert: Iran-Israel Armed Conflict	https://www.crisis24.com/articles/critical-alert-iran-israel-armed-conflict
2. The Times: US strikes 'set back Iran's nuclear progress by months' — as it happened	https://www.thetimes.com/world/middle-east/israel-iran/article/ceasefire-latest-news-war-trump-slvh7tzt5?utm_source=chatgpt.com&region=global
3. ISW Press: Iran Update Special Report, June 23, 2025, Evening Edition	https://understandingwar.org/research/middle-east/iran-update-special-report-june-23-2025-evening-edition/



Implementation

	Sector	Activities	Budget (CHF)	Expenditure
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Early Actions

DRR

• CBRN Awareness Sessions:
CBRN risk-awareness sessions were conducted by IRCS volunteers to equip key population groups with essential knowledge on nuclear, radiological, and chemical preparedness. Through coordinated outreach efforts, volunteers reached 2,221 government authorities, strengthening institutional readiness and improving understanding of emergency protocols within official structures. Community engagement formed a core component of the campaign. Volunteers conducted sessions for 835 youth participants during community gatherings, facilitated 1,900 home visits to provide household-level guidance, and engaged 1,565 students in universities and schools to promote readiness among younger populations. In addition, awareness activities carried out during field visits to public markets reached 1,747 beneficiaries.

Across all outreach activities, communities received practical and actionable guidance on preventing radiation and chemical exposure, including protective behaviours, safe sheltering practices, evacuation procedures, early warning systems, and exposure prevention measures, enabling households and institutions to take informed and effective actions in case of emergencies. Through this broad and inclusive outreach, the IRCS ensured that diverse segments of society received clear and



consistent life-saving information. The scale and diversity of audiences reached reflect the volunteers' strong commitment to strengthening community resilience nationwide.

The Iraqi Red Crescent Society promptly activated its early action measures by mobilizing and deploying volunteers to high-risk areas to enhance community readiness for potential hazards. A total of 24 volunteers from Baghdad, Diyala, Basra, Wasit, Maysan, Dhi Qar, Al- Muthanna, and Anbar branches received specialized training, equipping them to disseminate early warnings, providing practical guidance to vulnerable households, and strengthening local emergency preparedness. Their deployment ensured timely support to communities in high-risk areas, enhancing awareness and responsiveness to potential hazards.

- Distribution of first aid kits: Additionally, the IRCS strengthened community readiness by distributing first aid kits to support immediate medical needs in high-risk areas. A total of 603 first aid kits were provided in the target governorates, ensuring that families and responders were equipped to address injuries quickly during the early stages of the emergency.

- Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA): During the Imminent DREF operation, the IRCS applied a strong Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)

CHF 56,250

CHF 67,343



approach grounded in its volunteer network and trusted presence in high-risk areas. Communities, local authorities, elders, and clerics were actively engaged throughout the CBRN awareness sessions, ensuring information was credible, context-appropriate, and accessible. IRCS used a mix of mobile teams, local media, and digital platforms to communicate verified guidance on radiation risks, evacuation protocols, and protective behaviours, helping counter misinformation during heightened regional tension. Community feedback mechanisms were integrated into all activities, enabling IRCS to adapt messages and identify priority needs rapidly. Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) considerations guided outreach, ensuring that women, children, persons with disabilities, and other at-risk groups were intentionally included. This participatory and transparent approach strengthened public trust, supported early action, and enhanced community readiness amid escalating conflict risks. Coordination with government actors further reinforced continuity and local ownership of early action efforts.





Early Response

Livelihoods and basic needs

• As a proactive initiative under the Imminent DREF to enhance early response for communities at risk of sudden population movement, the IRCS provided urgent support to vulnerable households by distributing 740 food baskets across Anbar, Baghdad, Basra, Diyala, Maysan, Muthanna, Dhi-Qar, and Wasit governorates.

This early response activity aimed to ensure food security for at-risk families in areas identified as highly vulnerable in the event of sudden displacement or disruption of essential services. By delivering these food parcels ahead of any potential crisis, the IRCS reduced the immediate humanitarian impact of the evolving situation, strengthened community resilience, and reinforced the capacity of households to cope with possible emergency scenarios. This proactive action was aligned with the DREF objective of mitigating urgent needs and safeguarding the wellbeing of affected populations before the anticipated risks escalated.

CHF 18,750

CHF 0

Sub-total

CHF 75,000

CHF 67,343

Indirect Cost

CHF 5,000

CHF 5,000

Total

CHF 80,000

CHF 72,343

Total Assisted Population

Assisted Women	4,076	Rural	-
Assisted Girls (under 18)	-	Urban	-
Assisted Men	4,192	People with disabilities (estimated)	-
Assisted Boys (under 18)	-		
Total Population Assisted	8,268		
Total Targeted Population	-		



DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

MDRIQ018 - Iraq - Population Movement

Operating Timeframe: 25 Jun 2025 to 31 Aug 2025

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2025/6-12	Operation	MDRIQ018
Budget Timeframe	*	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 10/Mar/2026

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	80,000
DREF Anticipatory Pillar	80,000
Expenditure	-72,343
Closing Balance	7,657

II. Expenditure by planned operations / enabling approaches

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items			0
PO02 - Livelihoods			0
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash			0
PO04 - Health			0
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene			0
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion			0
PO07 - Education			0
PO08 - Migration			0
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	80,000	72,343	7,657
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability			0
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability			0
Planned Operations Total	80,000	72,343	7,657
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships			0
EA02 - Secretariat Services			0
EA03 - National Society Strengthening			0
Enabling Approaches Total			0
Grand Total	80,000	72,343	7,657

[Click here for the complete financial report](#)

Explain any variances or modifications to the implemented activities

There were no changes or modifications to the planned activities and the remaining amount of CHF 21,456.07 will be returned to the DREF. All activities were implemented; however, due to delays in funds reaching IRCS accounts and the limited timeframe, the funds could not be fully utilized.

Mitigation efforts and achievements.

IRCS implemented a series of early actions designed to reduce the potential impact of the anticipated event and strengthen the preparedness of at-risk communities. In preparedness for any potential event materialization, IRCS activated 24 trained volunteers from the Baghdad, Diyala, Basra, Wasit, Maysan, Dhi Qar, Al-Muthanna, and Anbar branches, deploying them across vulnerable areas to deliver

targeted awareness sessions. These sessions reached a wide audience, including military authorities, state employees, youth groups, university and school students, and families through home and market visits. By providing practical guidance on nuclear and radiological hazards, protective behaviours, early warning systems, and basic emergency actions, the volunteers significantly enhanced community understanding and readiness. This early dissemination of critical information played a key role in reducing panic, strengthening preparedness, and ensuring that populations were better equipped to respond safely.

In parallel, IRCS implemented early distributions to further mitigate risk. A total of 603 first aid kits were delivered across Karbala, Najaf, and Baghdad, ensuring that households and community responders had the means to address injuries rapidly in the initial phase of any emergency. To stabilize household needs and prevent food insecurity during the early escalation period, IRCS also distributed 740 food baskets to the most vulnerable families. These proactive measures helped limit potential humanitarian impact, allowing communities to remain supported and resilient while preparedness efforts intensified.

As a result of the early actions—awareness, readiness training, and pre-emptive distributions, no additional large-scale emergency response was required, demonstrating the effectiveness of timely, well-coordinated anticipatory measures.

Lessons learnt and challenges

The most prominent challenges faced by the National Society were primarily related to funding and administrative processes. The most significant challenge arose in the transfer of funds. Although the transfer was validated and processed promptly, the funds were delayed in reaching IRCS accounts due to lengthy banking procedures. Transfers required multiple layers of verification, including intermediary bank checks and extended processing times, often stretching the timeline.

As a result, it became evident that alternative transfer routes may be necessary in future operations to ensure faster and more reliable access to funds.



Contact Information

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

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[Click here for reference](#)

