



IRAQ

2026 IFRC network country plan



16 December 2025

In support of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society



19

National Society branches



113

National Society local units



1,800

National Society staff



15,000+

National Society volunteers

People to be reached in 2026



120,000

Climate and environment



705,000

Disasters and crises



2M

Health and wellbeing



120,000

Migration and displacement



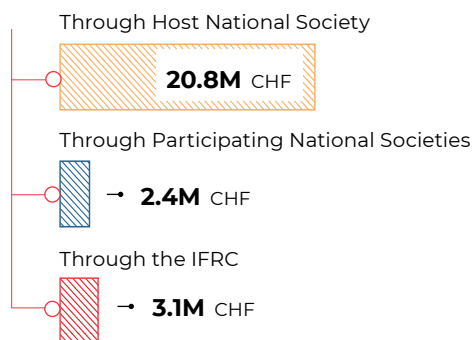
87,405

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network Funding Requirements

2026

Total 26.3M CHF



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

Hazards



Climate Change



Violence



Economic hardship



Food insecurity



Displacement

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

High

INFORM Climate Change Risk Index

Very High

Human Development Index rank

126

World Bank Population figure

46M

World Bank Population below poverty line

17.5%



The Iraqi Red Crescent Society provided aids to families affected by floods in 2025. (Photo: Iraqi Red Crescent Society)

Detailed funding requirements

2026

	Host National Society	IFRC
Longer-term needs		
Climate and environment	450,000	250,000
Disasters & crises	9.5M	420,000
Health & wellbeing	6.8M	1.8M
Migration & displacement	450,000	250,000
Values, power & inclusion	1.7M	180,000
Enabling local actors	2M	
Total	20.8M	3.1M

Participating National Societies bilateral support

National Society	Year	Funding Requirement	Confirmed Funding	Climate and environment	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions
British Red Cross	2026				-				
Danish Red Cross	2026	2.4M	124,000	-		-		-	
German Red Cross	2026				-				
Norwegian Red Cross	2026			-		-			
Swedish Red Cross	2026						-		
Turkish Red Crescent	2026			-	-	-			-

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.

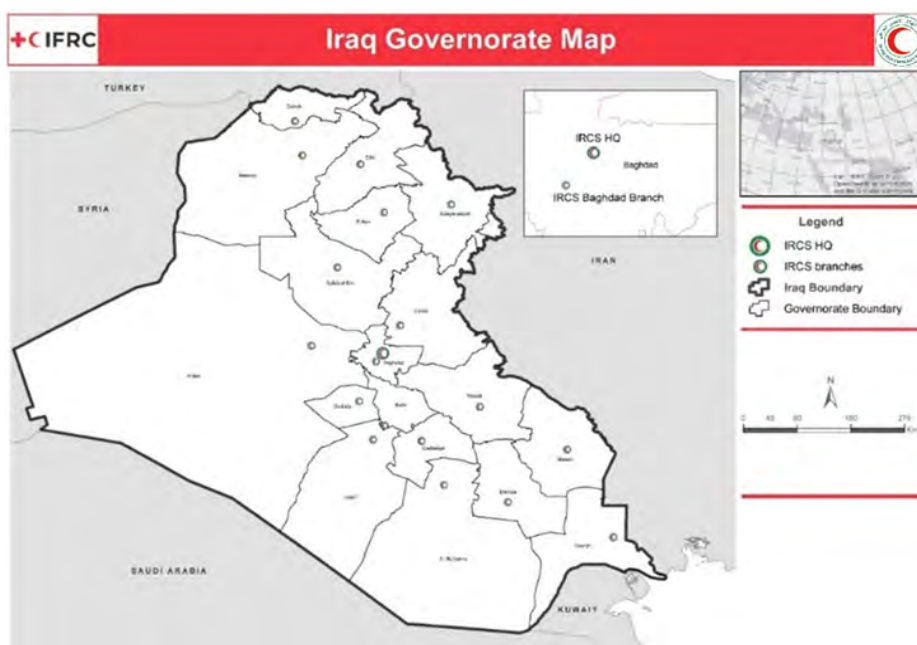
The Iraqi Red Crescent Society derives its mandate as an auxiliary to the public authorities' humanitarian efforts through the Iraqi Civil Code. The National Society functions as an autonomous, non-political, non-partisan organization, maintaining its independence. The country's authorities recognize 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 2024, the National Society reached more than 200,000 people through its various long-term services and development programmes and 194,000 people through its disaster response and early recovery programmes.



Map of the branches of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society

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 humanitarian situation in Iraq remains one of the most complex and protracted in the world. While overall numbers of people in need have declined in recent years, the severity of needs remains high, with significant humanitarian and protection challenges persisting across the country. Successive waves of conflict, political instability, and social unrest over the past two decades have weakened economic development and community resilience, particularly in conflict-affected areas. Access to essential services—including food, safe drinking water, healthcare, education, and shelter—remains constrained, affecting mental health and psychosocial well-being.

The health system has been severely weakened by years of underinvestment and conflict, and continues to suffer from shortages of medicines, supplies, and trained personnel. The COVID-19 pandemic further strained infrastructure and workforce capacity, limiting access for internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees, and host communities.

Displacement remains a major humanitarian issue. As of 2024, more than 1.14 million people remain internally displaced, including 166,000 in formal camps and over 100,000 living in critical shelter conditions. The majority are concentrated in Dohuk, Ninewa, Erbil, Sulaymaniyah, Kirkuk, Salah al-Din, Diyala, and Anbar, where protracted displacement and fragile recovery continue to strain local systems and communities. 1 Between 2014 and 2024, roughly 4.84 million IDPs returned to their areas of origin, yet many continue to live in high-severity conditions, facing unsafe housing, limited services, and ongoing community tensions. Families associated with extremist groups, including the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), remain at heightened risk of harassment, retaliatory attacks, and restrictions on freedom of movement. The most critical challenge is access to civil documentation where 28 per cent of households reported that at least one member was missing key civil documents, and 56 per cent specifically lack civil IDs. Without these documents, individuals are denied access to basic services, social protection schemes, compensation, freedom of movement, and legal recourse.

Vulnerable populations—including women, children, persons with disabilities, and marginalized groups—experience exploitation, gender-based violence (GBV), economic insecurity, and limited access to essential services. The humanitarian system is gradually transitioning from emergency response to system-building, with responsibilities increasingly handed over to national and local authorities. Over 1 million IDPs remain in Iraq as of mid-2025, including more than 104,000 in camps within the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI).³ Marginalized groups, particularly those perceived to have ISIL affiliations, face

barriers to reintegration and significant gaps in access to civil documentation, which is critical for services, social protection, and legal rights.

Protection risks persist for women, children, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized populations, who continue to face discrimination, eviction threats, abuse, GBV, and exploitation. Trauma from conflict further undermines resilience, and gaps in protection, mental health, and psychosocial support remain significant. International agencies continue to provide legal aid and documentation support, but broader access to social protection remains limited, particularly for residents of informal settlements or those with complex protection needs. Strengthening inclusive policies, legal support, and service delivery is essential for long-term stability.

Iraq remains highly dependent on oil revenues, which account for over 85 per cent of government income. Although growth reached 8.9 per cent in 2022 due to increased oil production and exports, this has not translated into broad-based development. Vulnerability to global oil price fluctuations constrains stability, and diversification efforts remain limited. Poverty affects nearly a quarter of the population (24.8 per cent), with some governorates exceeding 50 per cent, while youth unemployment drives social discontent and migration pressures.

Food insecurity has intensified due to disrupted agricultural production, damaged food systems, and reduced employment opportunities, particularly affecting rural households. Climate change—including rising temperatures, erratic rainfall, droughts, desertification, and water scarcity—further undermines livelihoods and drives climate-related displacement. Water shortages and salinization contribute to tensions over resources, while environmental stressors weaken resilience and exacerbate mental health challenges.

Economic recovery and food security are constrained by limited competitiveness in non-oil sectors, protracted displacement, widespread poverty, and inadequate infrastructure in return areas. These pressures increase reliance on harmful coping strategies and exacerbate vulnerabilities in education, psychosocial well-being, and protection.

Environmental and climate-related challenges exacerbate social vulnerabilities. Iraq faces severe water scarcity, reduced rainfall, rising temperatures, and mismanagement of water resources, intensifying desertification and undermining agricultural productivity. These factors contribute to food insecurity, displacement, and competition over natural resources, further straining social stability.

Iraq ranks 15th globally on the INFORM Risk Index, reflecting extreme vulnerability to overlapping crises: long-term conflict and displacement, political instability, and intensifying climate

shocks. Climate change—particularly drought—is a major driver of vulnerability, compounded by weakened governance and water scarcity. Iraq is the fifth-most climate-vulnerable country globally, with rising temperatures, declining rainfall, frequent sandstorms, flooding, and reductions in transboundary water flow straining communities and water resources. By 2021, climate-induced displacement affected nearly 20,000 people, a figure expected to grow as environmental pressures intensify. Without sustained investment in adaptation, disaster preparedness, and water management, vulnerabilities are projected to deepen, forcing more Iraqis into displacement and further straining already vulnerable communities.

Iraq's security environment remains complex and fragile, shaped by political turbulence, militia-state tensions, and sporadic violence. In 2025, armed clashes in Baghdad and Sulaymaniyah highlighted ongoing tensions between state institutions, armed groups, and regional political factions. While the Islamic State (IS) no longer controls territory, residual rebellion activity persists. Socio-economic pressures—including poverty and unemployment—heighten the risk of public unrest. Limited access to services and strained health infrastructure further exacerbate instability, affecting both humanitarian access and the broader stabilization agenda.

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 desalination, 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

In 2026, the Iraqi Red Crescent Society, as part of the [IFRC Global Climate Resilience Programme](#), will focus on strengthening community-level climate resilience through locally led, climate-smart disaster risk reduction and adaptation initiatives.

Building on a holistic, multi-year approach, the National Society will prioritize:

- Scaling up climate-smart [disaster risk reduction](#), [anticipatory action](#), and preparedness to prevent and reduce the impacts of climate-related disasters. This includes targeted trainings in climate- and drought-affected areas to equip communities, staff, and volunteers with the skills needed for rapid and sustained adaptation

- Reducing public health risks associated with climate change, including heatwaves, floods, and drought, by promoting safe behaviours during extreme heat and drought and raising awareness among communities and schools about environmental risks and protective measures
- Addressing climate-induced displacement by supporting vulnerable communities in mitigating and adapting to displacement risks
- Promoting climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services through initiatives that encourage water conservation, sustainable livelihoods, and the use of renewable energy, reducing environmental impacts and enhancing long-term resilience
- Community and school awareness programmes aimed at fostering environmentally responsible practices, including reducing local climate impacts and adopting sustainable behaviours
- 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

Aligned with these priorities, the National Society will ensure that communities, staff, and volunteers are equipped to take urgent and sustained action to adapt to evolving climate and environmental risks.

Planned activities in 2026

- 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

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.

Additionally, the IFRC in Iraq will continue integrating environmentally responsible practices across programming and operations, actively contributing to global climate change mitigation efforts.

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

For real-time information on IFRC 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 will focus on strengthening disaster preparedness, response, and resilience-building across communities and institutions. Key priorities for 2026 and beyond include:

Relief and Assistance: Providing timely, needs-based support to disaster-affected populations, including [multi-purpose cash](#), in-kind assistance, and essential services designed to protect dignity, strengthen agency, and meet urgent needs

Emergency Shelter and Displacement Support: Ensuring access to safe, temporary shelter and essential household items for displaced and vulnerable families, while facilitating recovery and return solutions in coordination with local authorities

Community Safety and Risk Awareness: Implementing community-focused initiatives such as fire risk awareness campaigns, ERW risk education, and promotion of safe behaviours in hazard-prone areas to reduce exposure to preventable risks

Capacity Building and Training: Conducting trainings and workshops for communities, volunteers, and trainers on disaster risk reduction, resilience-building, safe behaviour during crises, and anticipatory action in high-risk contexts, including drought- and flood- affected areas

Early Warning and Risk-Informed Preparedness: Supporting risk-informed communities through local risk analysis, early warning systems, household preparedness, safer shelter, and WASH practices aligned with national disaster risk management priorities and Strategy 2030

Livelihoods and Food Security: Supporting climate-smart and market-based livelihood interventions to stabilize food access, diversify incomes, and enhance household resilience, coordinated with government social protection and agricultural policies

System-Level Support and Policy Engagement: Strengthening National Society's auxiliary role by providing technical guidance on national disaster risk management frameworks, emergency logistics, strategic supply chains, and disaster law reforms—including engagement on the draft articles of the Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters (Disaster Law Treaty). These efforts aim to clarify roles, strengthen anticipatory action, and ensure alignment between humanitarian action and government strategies.

By integrating community-based resilience-building, operational surge capacity, and system-level policy engagement, the National Society will help reduce disaster risk, protect livelihoods, and enhance preparedness across Iraq's most vulnerable populations. This sustained, multi-dimensional approach ensures that humanitarian response is effectively linked with recovery, stabilization, and long-term resilience.

Planned activities in 2026

- 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.

At the policy level, the IFRC will reinforce the National Society's auxiliary role by providing technical advice to authorities on disaster risk management (DRM) legislation, contingency planning, and coordination mechanisms. This includes aligning Movement support with Iraq's commitments under the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), ensuring that humanitarian action complements governmental strategies on climate change adaptation, disaster preparedness, and sustainable development.

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. In 2025, the IFRC provided DREF allocation for one emergency in Iraq, as described below:

[IFRC-DREF Iraq Floods](#): the DREF allocation of CHF 472,691 in March 2025 supported the Iraqi Red Crescent Society in assisting more than 31,000 people affected by floods in the areas of Anbar, Diyala, Erbil, Qadisiyah, and Thi-Qar. The National Society supported the targeted people over a period of six months with assistance such as shelter, housing and settlements, livelihoods support, multipurpose cash assistance, WASH, among others.

The **British Red Cross** will provide support to the National Society's cash programming through technical support and funding of required human resources.

The **German Red Cross** will provide technical assistance in disaster risk reduction and anticipatory action and MoFA projects. Support will focus on strengthening the National Society's capacities in disaster risk reduction, economic security, and anticipation, through community-based disaster management and preparedness initiatives. Building on previous work in anticipatory action for winter storms and heatwaves, it will further support the National Society in documenting and sharing lessons learned and good practices at the national and regional levels.

The **Turkish Red Crescent** support will focus on humanitarian support through Ramadan and Eid Al-Adha programs and related projects, including the provision of food and non-food items to households affected by crises, as well as regular social assistance targeting the most vulnerable groups. These interventions aim not only to meet immediate humanitarian needs but also to strengthen community resilience to recurring crises, in close cooperation with the national society. Activities will include community-based disaster risk management and institutional disaster preparedness.



Iraq's health system continues to struggle under the cumulative effects of conflict, economic fragility, and weak governance. Years of underinvestment and damage to infrastructure have undermined service delivery, leaving large sections of the population without reliable access to quality care. The Global Health Security Index (2025) ranks Iraq among the lower tier of countries in preparedness, highlighting fragile health governance, limited emergency response capacity, and insufficient investment in surveillance and prevention systems. The WHO reports that Iraq's average life expectancy is 70 years, below the regional average, and that maternal and child mortality rates remain higher than regional peers due to persistent service delivery gaps.

Access to healthcare in Iraq is highly uneven, with populations in conflict-affected and recently returned areas facing the greatest barriers. Many facilities were destroyed or damaged during the ISIL conflict, rural communities, informal settlements, and IDP camps often lack functioning primary healthcare. Referral services are further undermined by shortages of ambulances and medical staff. High out-of-pocket costs for medicines remain a major obstacle, forcing many families to forgo treatment. Natural disasters, including floods, sandstorms, and droughts, regularly disrupt access to facilities and reduce water quality, further constraining people's ability to maintain good health.

Major health challenges reflect both the lingering impact of crises and broader epidemiological transitions. Communicable diseases, particularly diarrheal illnesses linked to unsafe water and respiratory illnesses driven by dust storms and poor air quality, remain significant. Epidemics, including cholera outbreaks, have emerged intermittently, while the COVID-19 pandemic exposed weaknesses in surveillance and outbreak management systems, leaving a lasting burden on already strained health infrastructure.

Vaccination coverage also remains uneven, particularly among displaced and marginalized populations. While Iraq has made progress in childhood immunization, zero-dose and under-immunized children are disproportionately represented among IDPs and rural poor. Barriers to access, population movements, and misinformation contribute to incomplete vaccination rates, raising the risk of preventable outbreaks such as measles and polio.

Malnutrition is a growing concern. Food insecurity—affecting an estimated 1.7 million people in 2024—translates into high rates of stunting and wasting among children under five, particularly in rural and displacement-affected communities. Disruptions in agricultural livelihoods, compounded by climate change and rising food prices, further undermine dietary diversity and increase dependence on humanitarian food assistance.

At the same time, non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as hypertension, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and cancer

are on the rise, reflecting demographic changes, lifestyle risks, and weakened health systems. Access to chronic disease management is particularly poor in return and rural areas, where shortages of trained staff and medicines prevent continuity of care.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) conditions directly affect health outcomes. Iraq remains in the grip of a water scarcity crisis, with falling groundwater levels and reduced flows in the Tigris and Euphrates. Nearly 740,500 people are in need of WASH services, with southern governorates particularly affected. Poor-quality water, damaged sanitation systems, and inadequate waste management increase the likelihood of cholera and other waterborne disease outbreaks. In IDP camps and informal settlements, inadequate WASH facilities exacerbate public health risks and limit dignity.

The Government of Iraq has established health and WASH as priorities within its national strategies, including the National Health Strategy (2021–2030), commitments under the WHO International Health Regulations (IHR), and climate-related health actions outlined in its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Coordination mechanisms exist between the Ministry of Health, WHO, and humanitarian partners for epidemic preparedness, but implementation is limited by resource gaps and governance challenges. The National Environmental Strategy and Action Plan, also highlights water and sanitation as central to public health, although practical enforcement and investments remain insufficient.

Multi-year high-level objectives of the National Society

The Iraqi Red Crescent Society's 2026 priorities focus on expanding access to quality, equitable, and sustainable health and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services across the life course, while maintaining continuity of essential services during crises, disease outbreaks, and environmental shocks. Key initiatives include:

Primary and Emergency Healthcare Services: Providing life-saving medical interventions through both mobile and fixed clinics, including ambulance and emergency medical support. Services will cover maternal and child health, chronic disease management, reproductive health, family planning, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), and health education. Procurement and provision of essential medicines and medical supplies will ensure continuity of care for vulnerable populations

Community Health Awareness and Education: Promoting public understanding of communicable disease prevention, reproductive health, family planning, hygiene, and risk communication and community engagement (RCCE). School-based programs will focus on hygiene education and safe health

behaviours, reinforcing community resilience to future health risks.

Strengthening WASH Systems: Rehabilitating and maintaining water wells and reverse osmosis (RO) units to ensure safe drinking water in drought-affected and displacement-affected areas. Expanding access to sanitation and hygiene facilities in rural communities, IDP camps, and schools will improve overall community health and resilience.

Integration of Climate-Smart Health Approaches: Addressing the intersection of climate and health through early-warning systems for climate-sensitive diseases, promoting heatwave preparedness, and strengthening environmental health resilience

Emergency Preparedness and Response: Building Iraqi Red Crescent Society capacity for epidemic response, rapid deployment of mobile medical teams, and surge readiness for sudden-onset crises, including floods and waterborne disease outbreaks

Policy Engagement and System-Level Support: Leveraging the National Society's auxiliary role to advocate for stronger health and WASH policies, integrated disaster risk management, and alignment with Iraq's National Health Strategy, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and global health security frameworks. Support will also focus on improving institutional quality standards and resilience in the health system.

Through this integrated approach, the Iraqi Red Crescent Society will ensure that communities are better prepared to prevent and respond to health and environmental risks, access essential services during crises, and build long-term resilience to shocks.

Planned activities in 2026

- 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.

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.

The **Turkish Red Crescent** plans to implement three renovation projects in Iraq, all in cooperation with the National Society. The first will focus on refurbishing nursing homes in Erbil to improve living conditions for elderly residents. The second will involve renovation and refurbishment of orphanages in Mosul and Duhok to provide children with safer, more suitable environments. The third project will upgrade water storage systems in schools across Erbil to mitigate water shortages, enhance hygiene, and prevent waterborne diseases. Additionally, in Mosul—one of the Iraqi regions most affected by terrorism and the remnants of war—a potential joint project is being explored to establish a prosthetics manufacturing facility on land owned by the Iraqi Red Crescent Society, in collaboration with TİKA. The initiative remains under negotiation, and implementation will proceed upon mutual agreement among all stakeholders.



Migration and displacement

Iraq has experienced successive waves of displacement and migration throughout its modern history, driven by conflict, political instability, economic fragility, and environmental pressures. The country is simultaneously a country of origin, transit, and destination for various groups, including internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees and asylum seekers, and migrants.

Iraq hosts one of the largest protracted IDP caseloads in the Middle East. As of early 2025, an estimated 1.2 million Iraqis remain internally displaced, primarily in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) and conflict-affected governorates such as Ninewa, Salah al-Din, Kirkuk, and Anbar. Displacement is heavily concentrated in areas affected by ISIL conflict (2014–2017). Although over

4.8 million people have returned since 2014, many returns remain unsustainable: around 600,000 people live in high-severity conditions lacking housing, basic services, or livelihoods. Vulnerable groups—including families perceived to have ISIL affiliations, women-headed households, children without civil documentation, elderly persons, and people with disabilities—face heightened protection risks.

As of 2025, Iraq hosts approximately 280,000 refugees and asylum seekers, the majority being Syrian refugees concentrated in the KRI. Smaller refugee populations from Turkey, Iran, Palestine, and Sudan also reside in the country. Refugees often face barriers to legal documentation, livelihoods, and access to health and education, particularly outside the KRI.

Iraq also functions as a transit and destination country for migrants, including workers from South and Southeast Asia and neighbouring states. Many experience exploitative labour conditions, lack legal protections, and face barriers to accessing health and social services. Weak migration governance increases risks of abuse, exploitation, and trafficking.

Conflict and insecurity, particularly sectarian violence and ISIL's territorial control (2014–2017), remain the primary drivers of displacement. Climate change and water scarcity are emerging as new causes: prolonged droughts, salinization, and poor water quality have displaced over 130,000 people across 12 governorates. Rural-to-urban migration in search of livelihoods is further straining urban services and social cohesion.

Despite progress in stabilization, displaced populations face critical gaps in shelter, livelihoods, WASH, and health services. IDPs without civil documentation are excluded from public services and social protection schemes. The closure of formal IDP camps in 2024 left many in precarious informal sites or unsafe returns, with limited access to health care, education, or WASH. Refugees, particularly outside the KRI, and migrant workers remain largely excluded from humanitarian programming.

The Government of Iraq has committed to durable solutions through the National Plan for Displacement Resolution, emphasizing return, relocation, and local integration. Implementation remains uneven, with destroyed housing, insecurity, and lack of livelihoods limiting progress. The 2024 closure of formal IDP camps was accompanied by limited



In March 2025, 50 families received essential aid thanks to the Iraqi Red Crescent Society volunteers. (Photo: Iraqi Red Crescent Society)

support for sustainable returns. Iraq is a signatory to key refugee conventions, and refugee response is coordinated with the Kurdistan Regional Government and UNHCR. Migration governance frameworks remain underdeveloped, leaving protection gaps for migrant workers.

Multi-year high-level objectives of the National Society

The Iraqi Red Crescent Society is committed to addressing the needs and protecting the rights of migrants, refugees, and displaced persons through a comprehensive, coordinated, and community-centred approach. Central to this effort is ensuring safe, dignified, and equitable access to humanitarian assistance—including food, health, WASH, and shelter—at key points along migration routes and in displacement locations. The National Society also seeks to support durable solutions, social inclusion, and community cohesion by enabling safe and voluntary return, relocation, and local integration, while addressing barriers to civil documentation, essential services, and livelihoods.

Key priorities for 2026 and beyond include:

Relief and Assistance for Vulnerable Populations: Providing timely support to displaced and vulnerable households, including food assistance, cash grants, and essential items to meet immediate needs while protecting dignity and agency

Shelter and Housing Support: Ensuring access to emergency and transitional shelter for displaced families, coupled with interventions to facilitate voluntary return, reintegration, or local integration in line with government displacement resolution plans

Restoring Family Links and Social Support: Offering services to reconnect families separated by crises, including during emergencies and religious events, while providing recreational and psychosocial support for children, youth, displaced families, and refugees to strengthen well-being and resilience

Durable Solutions Programming: Supporting the long-term recovery and inclusion of displaced populations by addressing housing, livelihoods, health, WASH, and civil documentation needs, with attention to both host communities and returning households

Climate- and Disaster-Related Displacement: Integrating anticipatory action and climate adaptation into displacement programming to reduce secondary displacement risks caused by drought, floods, and environmental degradation

Refugee and Migrant Inclusion: Expanding access to legal aid, health care, livelihoods support, and protection services for refugees and migrants, with particular attention to urban centres and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI)

Capacity Building and Policy Engagement: Strengthening National Society's auxiliary role by enhancing technical capacity

on migration governance, displacement policy, and protection advocacy, including engagement with the government to update national migration and displacement policies. These efforts align with humanitarian standards, the Movement's Migration Strategy 2024–2030, and international frameworks

Planned activities in 2026

- 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.

In 2025, the IFRC provided DREF allocation for one emergency in Iraq under migration and displacement, as described below:

IFRC-DREF Population Movement: the DREF allocation of CHF 75,000 in June 2025 supported the Iraqi Red Crescent Society in its readiness in the aftermath of the Israel-Iran hostilities. The National Society, as an anticipatory measure due to the conflict, undertook interventions such as rapid mobilization of volunteers, risk awareness campaigns, distributions of first aid kits, among others, in the areas of Baghdad, Basra, Missan, Thi Qar, Muthanna, Diyala and Anbar.

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

The **Swedish Red Cross** will provide support to the National Society, pending approval of a proposal submitted to SIDA.

The **ICRC** provides support to the National Society under the Restoring Family Links ([RFL](#)) initiative.



Values, power and inclusion

Iraq's education system has been deeply affected by decades of conflict, displacement, and underinvestment. Thousands of schools were damaged or destroyed during the ISIL conflict, while others continue to be used as shelters or remain unsafe due to unexploded ordnance. Access to public education is uneven across governorates, with children in conflict-affected areas, IDP camps, and informal settlements facing the greatest barriers. These barriers include damaged infrastructure, poverty, cultural and gender-based restrictions, and displacement-related documentation challenges.

According to UNESCO and UNICEF over 1 million children remain out of school, with higher rates among displaced, rural, and minority populations. Out-of-school rates are particularly pronounced at the secondary level, where girls' attendance drops sharply due to early marriage, caregiving responsibilities, or safety concerns. Quality of education also suffers, with teacher-to-student ratios often exceeding 1:40, limited teaching materials, and gaps in foundational literacy and numeracy. Teachers often lack minimum required qualifications, particularly in rural and conflict-affected schools.

The Government of Iraq has committed to improving access and quality through its National Education Strategy (2022–2031), with priorities on school rehabilitation, teacher training, and expanding digital learning. Yet significant gaps remain in ensuring inclusive, safe, and protective learning environments, especially for girls, children with disabilities, and those living in poverty or displacement. Complementary, non-formal education initiatives led by IRCS and partners continue to play an important role in reaching children otherwise excluded from the education system.

Protection needs remain acute across Iraq. Armed conflict, displacement, and social instability have heightened risks of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), domestic abuse, child exploitation, and human trafficking. Women and girls face persistent barriers to full participation in civil and community life, often exacerbated by discriminatory practices, harmful social norms, and lack of access to justice. Children affected by armed conflict—particularly unaccompanied minors, child migrants, and IDPs—are among the most vulnerable to abuse, recruitment, and exploitation, while also being deprived of education.

Persons with disabilities, elderly people, LGBTQI+ individuals, and minority groups such as Yazidis, Christians, and Turkmen face heightened exclusion and violence risks. People lacking civil documentation are at particular risk of arrest, restricted movement, and inability to access services.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Iraqi Red Crescent Society prioritizes education, protection, and inclusive community engagement to enhance resilience, well-being, and social cohesion across Iraq. Central to this mission is promoting Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values, with a particular focus on children and youth, while ensuring access to safe, inclusive, and quality education in both formal and non-formal settings. The National Society also emphasizes protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) across all programs, ensuring interventions uphold the dignity, rights, and participation of every individual, regardless of gender, age, disability, or identity.

Key priorities for 2026 and beyond include:

Education and Youth Engagement: Expanding access to safe learning spaces, life-skills programs, and community-based education initiatives, aligned with Iraq's National Education Strategy and global commitments under Sustainable Development Goal (SDG). This includes lessons learned workshops, dissemination of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and Movement principles, IHL training, and activities that promote community conflict reduction

Child Protection and Inclusion: Delivering child-focused psychosocial activities, awareness sessions, caregiver support, child-friendly materials, and community engagement initiatives to protect and empower children in crisis-affected areas

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS): Strengthening MHPSS interventions through staff and volunteer trainings, development of referral systems, and recreational and psychosocial activities for children, youth, and vulnerable community members.

Livelihoods and Skills Development: Providing vocational training, safe access training for staff and volunteers, and community-based initiatives that promote self-reliance and resilience.

Volunteer Support: Ensuring psychosocial first aid, care systems, support groups, and meaningful engagement of volunteers through participation in planning, feedback, and decision-making processes.

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA): Embedding CEA frameworks across all branches, strengthening two-way feedback and complaints mechanisms, and empowering communities to influence humanitarian decision-making while fostering trust and social cohesion.

Policy Development, Advocacy, and Safeguarding:

Leveraging the National Society's auxiliary role to engage with authorities on education, PGI, and CEA policies, ensuring the development and dissemination of safeguarding frameworks and operational guidance. This includes contributing to national policies and compliance with international standards, supporting Iraq's commitments under SDG 4 (Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions).

By integrating education, protection, livelihoods, and psychosocial support with robust volunteer engagement, policy advocacy, and safeguarding frameworks, the Iraqi Red Crescent Society will ensure that crisis-affected communities are empowered, safe, and resilient, with inclusive access to essential services and opportunities for long-term development.

Planned activities in 2026

- 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

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** will continue supporting the Iraqi Red Crescent Society in mainstreaming Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) across its programs and services. This support aims to strengthen the National Society's capacity to integrate MHPSS principles into all sectors, ensuring that the psychological well-being of affected individuals and communities is prioritized alongside physical health and humanitarian response.



The Iraqi Red Crescent Society provides shelter and livelihood support to those affected by disasters and crises in Iraq. (Photo: Iraqi Red Crescent Society)

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.



Key Institutional Indicators

The National Society has put in place the following:

- Strategy to strengthen its auxiliary role
- National Society development plan
- Youth engagement strategy
- Health, accident and death compensation for volunteers
- Protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) policy
- PSEA Action Plan



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- 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

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.



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Strengthen governance and statutory frameworks by updating policies, strategic plans, and statutory texts to reinforce accountability, transparency, and alignment with Strategy 2030 and Iraq's humanitarian priorities
- Modernize internal systems by establishing a strong PMER framework, enhancing financial and risk management systems, and advancing digitalization
- Build financial sustainability by diversifying funding sources, developing domestic fundraising and private sector partnerships, and investing in income-generating initiatives such as vocational training centres
- Develop branches and leadership capacity by investing in branch infrastructure, governance training, and leadership development
- Enhance volunteer and youth engagement through safe volunteer management systems, career pathways,

capacity-building opportunities, and greater inclusion of young people in decision-making and innovation

- Promote inclusion and integrity by embedding Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), safeguarding, and integrity standards across all structures

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

- Strengthen auxiliary role by shaping national laws, policies, and strategies on disaster management, climate adaptation, migration, and health, ensuring alignment with humanitarian principles
- Consolidate public image and credibility as the leading national humanitarian actor, advocating for vulnerable communities and influencing decision-makers at national and regional levels
- Promote humanitarian values and principles, especially among youth and communities, to foster social cohesion, non-discrimination, and community resilience
- Expand partnerships with government, civil society, academia, and the private sector to mobilize resources and expertise in support of humanitarian priorities

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 IFRC support to the National Society will extend to areas such as disaster law and policy engagement, capacity building for leadership and staff, strategic communications support, collective Movement positioning, and policy and partnership development.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Establishing itself as part of a global accountable network, with strong internal compliance, safeguarding, and integrity systems that ensure dignity, access, and safety for all
- Undergoing a comprehensive digital transformation, enhancing its PMER, finance, HR, and operational systems to improve efficiency, transparency, and responsiveness
- Expanding the use of innovative and transformative approaches—including anticipatory action, climate resilience initiatives, and youth-led innovation—to better anticipate, adapt to, and address complex humanitarian and development challenges
- 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, the 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

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, Ninewa, Anbar and Baghdad, and is engaged in the ICRC [Health Care in Danger](#) initiative in Baghdad, Ninewa, 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.

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 2026 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 network databank](#)
- 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 2026 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 network databank](#)
- 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 bank](#) • [Donor response reports](#)

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