



CBRN awareness session facilitated by Iraqi Red Crescent Volunteers.

Appeal: MDRIQ020	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 80,000	Hazard: Population Movement	Country: Iraq
People at Risk: 150,000 people	People Targeted: -	People Assisted: 21,150 people	Event Onset: Sudden
Operation Start Date: 05-03-2026	Operational End Date: 30-04-2026	Total Operating Timeframe: 45 days	Publication Date: 31-08-2026

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

The major donors and partners of the IFRC-DREF include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Britain, China, Czech, Canada, Denmark, German, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein, Malta, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, and the Netherlands, as well as DG ECHO, Mondelez Foundation, and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the National Society, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions.

Event development

Events impact

The escalation of regional hostilities during February 2026 had significant humanitarian repercussions across Iraq. A series of airstrikes, missile incidents, and drone attacks occurred within Iraqi territory, including strikes in Jurf Al-Sakhar south of Baghdad and repeated attacks targeting strategic locations in the Kurdistan Region. These incidents heightened insecurity among civilians and increased concerns over the potential expansion of hostilities into populated areas.

The impact on communities extended beyond the immediate effects of the attacks. Fear of further escalation, coupled with uncertainty regarding the security situation, prompted precautionary movements among families residing near locations perceived to be at risk. Households in Baghdad, Erbil, Sulaymaniyah, Diyala, Wasit, Maysan, and Basra reported concerns over personal safety, disruptions to transportation routes, and potential interruptions to essential services. Many families temporarily relocated to stay with relatives or within host communities, while others restricted their movements and adopted precautionary measures to reduce exposure to potential risks.

According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), at least 90 households had been identified as displaced in relation to the crisis by the end of March 2026. In addition, increased cross-border mobility was observed as the conflict affected movement patterns throughout the region. By the end of March, IOM recorded 843 arrivals from Iran, 551 departures to Iran by Iraqi citizens, and 181 returnees from Iran.

The humanitarian consequences extended beyond displacement. Airspace restrictions, security measures, and concerns over the safety of critical infrastructure disrupted livelihoods, access to services, and freedom of movement. Vulnerable groups, including women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, and those already displaced by previous crises, faced heightened protection concerns and increased barriers to accessing essential services. The escalation also placed additional pressure on host communities and local service providers, particularly in areas already supporting internally displaced persons, returnees, and refugee populations.

While the scale of displacement remained localized compared to previous crises in Iraq, the events demonstrated the vulnerability of communities to regional instability and underscored the importance of preparedness, protection, and humanitarian assistance for populations affected by sudden security shocks.

Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. Shafaq News: Iraq urges vigilance, assures food stocks as regional strikes escalate	https://shafaq.com/en/Security/Iraq-urges-vigilance-assures-food-stocks-as-regional-strikes-escalate
2. Al Jazeera: Targeting the Regime: The Second Round of the US-Israeli War on Iran	https://studies.aljazeera.net/en/policy-briefs/targeting-regime-second-round-us%E2%80%93israeli-war-iran
3. K24 News: Iraqi Militia Group Claims Drone Attack on US Bases in Erbil	https://www.kurdistan24.net/en/story/897231/iraqi-militia-group-claims-drone-attack-on-us-bases-in-erbil
4. Reuters; Airstrikes kill at least two in Iraq’s Jurf al-Sakhar, PMF spokesperson says	https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/airstrikes-kill-least-two-iraqs-jurf-al-sakhar-pmf-spokesperson-says-2026-02-28/
5. IOM, DTM: Update on Cross Border Mobility and Internal Displacement in Iraq	https://iraqdtm.iom.int/files/BorderMonitoring/2026461939655_Update%20on%20Cross-border%20Mobility_Situation%20as%20of%2030%20March.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com



Implementation

	Sector	Activities	Budget (CHF)	Expenditure
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Early Actions

DRR

Volunteer Mobilization, Capacity Building, and Preparedness:

IRCS strengthened volunteer preparedness through a capacity-building approach across nine branches: Baghdad, Babylon, Al-Muthanna, Dhi Qar, Maysan, Wasit, Diyala, Basra and Erbil. As a first step, branch health coordinators participated in specialized remote workshops conducted through Microsoft Teams, focusing on chemical, biological and radiological hazards and the implementation methodology for the imminent-events project. The trained coordinators subsequently transferred the knowledge and skills acquired to branch-level volunteers through a combination of theoretical and practical training.

In total, 76 volunteers were trained to strengthen their capacity to support CBRN preparedness, risk communication and community outreach. The training provided volunteers with practical knowledge on identifying and differentiating chemical, biological and radiological hazards and understanding their potential health impacts. It also covered safety and protective measures during hazardous incidents, including recognition of potential signs of chemical exposure and appropriate actions to reduce exposure and contamination.

The training further incorporated community engagement and risk communication, emphasizing community participation in decision-making and preparedness planning. Additional modules addressed protective measures when indoors and outdoors, household decontamination practices, considerations for supporting children during emergencies, and the principles of Time, Distance and Shielding (TDS) for reducing exposure to radiological hazards. Practical first aid was also incorporated into the volunteer capacity-building process, complementing the CBRN preparedness modules and strengthening volunteers' ability to support immediate community-level response.

CBRN Risk Awareness and Preparedness:

Following the volunteer capacity-building activities, IRCS mobilized trained personnel to conduct community-level CBRN risk awareness and preparedness activities across the nine targeted governorates. 445 awareness sessions were conducted, providing communities with practical, accessible information on chemical, biological, and radiological hazards, as well as appropriate preparedness and protective measures.

Community members received guidance on recognizing potential hazards and taking immediate protective action during an imminent incident. Awareness included appropriate evacuation and sheltering measures, respiratory protection, avoiding contact with potentially contaminated substances, actions to reduce exposure when indoors or outdoors, and basic household preparedness and decontamination practices. These messages were complemented by community-level first aid activities aimed at strengthening people's ability to respond to immediate needs during emergencies.

Community outreach was conducted through multiple channels, including field campaigns, direct awareness sessions, household visits, explanatory brochures and community first aid workshops, enabling IRCS to

CHF 75,000

CHF 75,000



	disseminate preparedness information through both direct engagement and informational materials. Overall, the initiative reached approximately 21,250 people, including 11,642 men and 9,508 women, across Baghdad, Babylon, Al-Muthanna, Dhi Qar, Maysan, Wasit, Diyala, Basra and Erbil. Community Engagement, Accountability, and Risk Communication: Community Engagement and Accountability was integrated throughout the intervention to support the provision of accurate, timely and understandable information on CBRN risks and preparedness measures. IRCS staff, branch coordinators and trained volunteers served as trusted sources of information and encouraged community members to actively engage in discussions on local risks, preparedness actions and appropriate protective behaviours. The approach emphasized community participation in preparedness and decision-making, complementing the wider risk communication activities and supporting communities to better understand the actions they could take to reduce their exposure to imminent hazards. This contributed to strengthening community ownership of preparedness and risk-reduction measures and supported informed decision-making at household and community levels. The integration of community engagement into the intervention also reinforced the role of communities as active participants in preparedness rather than solely as recipients of information. Distribution of first aid kits: IRCS strengthened community readiness by distributing 552 first aid kits to support immediate medical needs in high-risk areas. The 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 and in case of any further escalations. Prepositioning of Food Parcels: As a preparedness measure, IRCS pre-positioned 1,000 food parcels to enable a rapid humanitarian response in the event of mass displacement, access constraints, or a sudden deterioration of the security situation. The pre-positioned stocks were intended to ensure the immediate availability of food assistance for vulnerable households that may be affected by any escalation, reducing response delays and strengthening operational readiness. This proactive approach enhanced the National Society's capacity to respond quickly to emerging humanitarian needs while supporting continuity of assistance during periods of heightened risk.		
	Sub-total	CHF 75,000	CHF 75,000
	Indirect Cost	CHF 5,000	CHF 5,000
	Total	CHF 80,000	CHF 80,000



Total Assisted Population

Assisted Women	9,508	Rural	-
Assisted Girls (under 18)	-	Urban	-
Assisted Men	11,642	People with disabilities (estimated)	-
Assisted Boys (under 18)	-		
Total Population Assisted	21,150		
Total Targeted Population	-		



MDRIQ020 - Iraq - Population Movement 2026

Operating timeframe: *Start date: 05-Mar-2026 End date: 30-Apr-2026*

Appeal launch date: *06-Mar-2026*

I. Summary

	Actual (CHF)
Opening Balance	80,000
Funds & Other Income	0
DREF Response Pillar	
DREF Anticipatory Pillar	
Expenditure	-79,875
Closing Balance	125

II. Expenditure by planned operations / enabling approaches

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items			
PO02 - Livelihoods			
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash			
PO04 - Health			
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene			
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion			
PO07 - Education			
PO08 - Migration			
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	80,000	79,875	125
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability			
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability			
Planned Operations Total	80,000	79,875	125
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships			
EA02 - Secretariat Services			
EA03 - National Society Strengthening			
Total	80,000	79,875	125

III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Prepared on 28-Aug-2026

Page 1 of 2

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

Mitigation efforts and achievements.

In response to the heightened risk posed by the regional escalation affecting Iraq in February 2026, the Iraqi Red Crescent Society implemented a series of anticipatory actions aimed at reducing potential humanitarian impacts and strengthening community preparedness in areas considered at risk. The intervention focused on enhancing volunteer readiness, increasing public awareness of CBRN hazards, strengthening community engagement and risk communication, and improving operational preparedness through the distribution of first aid kits and the pre-positioning of emergency relief stocks.

These early actions were implemented prior to any significant deterioration of the humanitarian situation and contributed to increasing the preparedness of both communities and responders. Through awareness and risk communication activities, approximately 21,250 people received information on potential hazards, protective measures, and preparedness actions, enabling them to make informed

decisions during a period of heightened uncertainty. At the same time, trained volunteers and branch staff were better equipped to support community outreach, awareness raising, and preparedness efforts in their respective areas.

While the anticipated large-scale humanitarian consequences did not materialize and displacement remained relatively limited and localized, the actions undertaken helped mitigate potential risks by strengthening community awareness, promoting preparedness behaviours, and ensuring the availability of essential response capacities should the situation have escalated further. The distribution of first aid kits enhanced the immediate ability of households and community members to address injuries and health emergencies, while the pre-positioning of food parcels strengthened IRCS operational readiness and ensured that humanitarian assistance could be mobilized rapidly in the event of displacement, access constraints, or a sudden worsening of the security situation.

Procurement activities were completed as planned to support the preparedness measures. First aid kits were procured and distributed in targeted high-risk areas, while food parcels were procured and strategically pre-positioned for potential emergency deployment. As no large-scale response was ultimately required, the pre-positioned stocks remained available to support any emerging humanitarian needs, demonstrating the value of anticipatory action in strengthening preparedness while avoiding delays in response should conditions have deteriorated.

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



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[Click here for reference](#)

