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## Information bulletin Yemen: Cyclone Mekunu

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**Date of issue:** 27 May 2018

**Date of disaster:** 24 May 2018

**Number of people affected:** 2,750 people displaced

**Host National Society:** Yemen Red Crescent Society (YRCS)

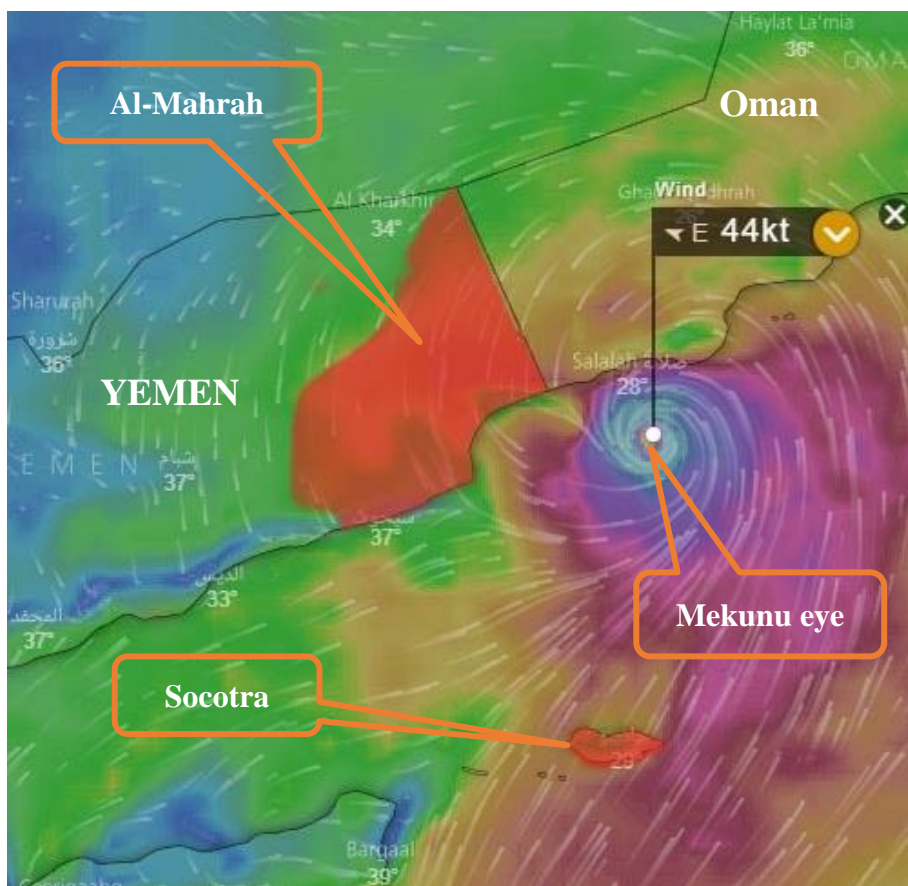
**Others:** Emirates Red Crescent

This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation known at this time.

## The Situation

Tropical cyclone Mekunu has caused heavy rainfall on the Arabian coast including Socotra island of Yemen. Sustained maximum wind speeds reached 99-106mph (159-209kmph), (*India Meteorological Department*). Mekunu's path mainly affected the two Yemeni governorates of Socotra and Al Mahrah.

- I. **Socotra:** Mekunu hit Socotra in the morning of 24<sup>th</sup> May 2018. By the morning of May 25<sup>th</sup>, the weather became calm with no rain. Socotra area is 3,796 km<sup>2</sup> and the population of Socotra is 60,000. Hadibu is the capital and the largest city in Socotra.
- II. **Al-Mahrah:** Mekunu hit Al-Mahrah in the first hours of 26<sup>th</sup> of May. Al-Mahrah area is 122,500 km<sup>2</sup> and it has two international borders with both Oman and Saudi Arabia. The population is around 400,000 and Al Ghaydah is the capital of Al-Mahrah.



Mekunu cyclone and the affected areas in Yemen – 25<sup>th</sup> May

## Impacts

- I. **Socotra:** 550 families in Hadibu and 53 families in Qalansiyah were evacuated to schools, mosques, government buildings and relatives' houses. Seven people died and 8 sailors are still missing. Livelihoods are greatly affected since most of the people are sailors and farmers. Many sailors lost their ships, and mudslides ran over many farms. In addition, electric power and telecommunications are down in many areas around the island. Five houses were damaged and some other houses were partly damaged. The governorate infrastructures have many problems, including damaged roads, out of service sewage system and insufficient drinking water. The government authorities announced Socotra as a disaster area calling for help and interventions. So far, Socotra is the most affected Yemeni governorate by cyclone Mekunu.



Damaged road



Wrecked ship



Partly damaged house. Beit Qurhat - Hadibu



Flash floods

- II. **Al-Mahrah:** Mekunu cyclone hit Al-Maharah in the early hours of 26 May for a few hours. Eight people were injured in Hawf and flash floods impacted some buildings, such as Surfeit port office. Haswayn school, Khawlah school and the old building of customs are partly damaged. Agricultural equipment, harvesters and warehouses are damaged in Al Gaydah. Strong winds speeded the crawling sands covering the road connecting between Hadramout and Al-Maharah. Two ships sank in Al-Gaydah and Al-Ebri health centre is out of service due to lack of medical supplies. Although some telecommunications' towers are damaged, the maintenance teams succeeded to bring some of the network back online in some areas of Hawf (small city next to Omani borders) and its neighbouring area.



Collapsed telecommunication tower in Hawf

## Needs

- I. **Socotra:** Evacuated and affected people are in need of NFIs, food baskets, shelters, drinking water, medical supply and first aid kits.
- II. **Al-Mahrah:** Similar to Socotra, people in Al-Mahrah are in need NFIs, food baskets, shelters, drinking water, medical supply and first aid kits.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The following has been the response from various Movement partners:

**YRCS:** Volunteers and staff in HQ and branches are on alert and ready to be deployed. HQ held meetings prior cyclone Mekunu and clarified the working mechanism with the related branches. The HQ continued contacting, following up, reporting and advising the branches for 24 hours. The branch staff and volunteers have been mobilized to alert people and evacuate the people living in coastal areas. They have responded to the situation in both governorates as described below:

- I. **Socotra:** YRCS-Socotra branch deployed its staff and volunteers in all Socotra's districts and have been in contact with the governorate operations room. They had provided the support within their limited resources by providing information, warning people, assisting evacuation procedures and responding to operation room inquiries. In coordination with HQ, YRCS-Socotra has established two assessment teams to assess damages and needs.

The local authorities and YRCS-Socotra were the first responders since the first day. The authorities announced 11 safe shelters, and with the contribution of YRCS-Socotra, they help in the evacuation procedures.

- II. **Al-Mahrah:** YRCS-Al Mahrah deployed 4 trained teams in Al Ghaydah, the capital of Al Mahrah, one of them with an ambulance two with first aid kits, and one as a support group. YRCS-Al Mahrah also deployed 150 volunteers all around the districts of Al-Mahrah led by a Disaster Management Officer (DMO) in YRCS- Al Mahrah. YRCS-Al Mahrah is in continuous contact with the emergency operation room of the governorate and DMO exists in the operation room. The contact numbers of YRCS-Al Mahrah have been broadcast to all as well as the hotline numbers of the emergency operation room.

The Governor, some social organizations, and Oman provided some NFIs, as well as water and dates, but there is still need in some places, Al Ghaydah, in particular. Authorities announced a list of some safe shelters for any evacuated people, including some government buildings and schools. They provided a contact list to facilitate evacuation. Between 70-100 families already evacuated from their homes to relatives' houses or shelters. YRCS Al Mahrah also participated in evacuation procedures and drinking water distribution.

On May 26<sup>th</sup>, the head of YRCS-Al Mahrah moved with a first aid team and an ambulance to Hawf to respond to the ongoing situation there. Similar to Socotra, the local authorities, YRCS- Al-Maharah and the local societies were in the field since the first day.

**Emirates Red Crescent:** In the morning of May 26<sup>th</sup>, Emirates Red Crescent sent a plane holding 40 tons of Relief goods (food and non-food items) have been sent to Socotra Island.



YRCS participate in drinking water distribution



First aid team with an ambulance moved Hawf

## Gaps

- Rapid need assessment in Socotra and Al Mahara
- Not enough resources neither with local authorities nor YRCS branches to respond to the disaster situation.
- Unavailable emergency communications with affected places except cellphone network which is partly functioning in some areas and totally collapsed in others.

## Contact information

### For further information please contact:

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