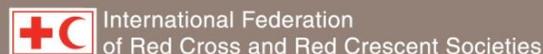


www.ifrc.org
Saving lives,
changing minds.

Operations update

Yemen: Flash floods



| | |
|---|--|
| DREF Operation n° MDRYE005 | Operations Update n° 1 |
| Date of issue: 01 September 2016 | Operation start date: 20 April 2016 |
| Timeframe covered by this update: 16 April 2016 to 31 August 2016 | Expected timeframe: 7 months (original 5 months) End date: 21 September 2016 New end date: 21 November 2016 |
| Overall budget allocation: CHF 140,308 | |
| N° of people affected: Approximately 29,750 overall | N° of people being assisted: 650 households (4,550 people) |
| Host National Society in targeted areas: Yemen Red Crescent Society (YRCS), 100 volunteers, 25 staff, and branches of Amran, Hajjah and Hodeidah | |
| Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), ICRC | |
| Other Partner Organizations actively involved in the operation: UNHCR, WFP, Oxfam, Danish Refugee Council, local civil society groups | |

*This operations update presents the implementation of the activities of the DREF operation launched in April to respond to the devastation caused by flash flooding that affected various governorates in Yemen. The update also requests a **two month no-cost extension** to allow completion of the procurement of relief items for replenishment of stocks in country as this process has been delayed considering the difficulties in local procurements and also delays experienced in getting Dubai, UAE procured relief items into the country.*

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

On 13 and 14 April, 2016, heavy rainfall caused heavy flooding that swept across various governorates in Yemen killing at least 20 people and affecting more than 4,250 families (29,750 people) in six governorates (Hodeidah, Amran, Hajjah, Sana'a, Abyan, Al Mahwit, and Marib). The floods have caused severe damage to vital infrastructure, property, livestock and crops. Security officials reported that small dams have also collapsed as a result including two in Hajjah and Amran governorates. The affected people were in urgent need for shelter, food, non-food items (NFIs), water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH), and health assistance. The most affected governorates were Abyan, Amran, Hajjah, and Hodeidah. Some of the districts were severely affected within these three governorates including districts of Amran, Jabal Yazid, Sharis, Bait Qodam, Al Zuhrah, and Al Luhayah.

In Amran governorate the two districts of Amran and Jabal Yazid were severely affected. It was estimated that more than 800 families in Amran district, and 220 families in Jabal Yazid district were left without shelter as a result of the destruction of their houses by the floods. There was widespread destruction of both asphalt and

dirt roads, cutting off thousands of people, drowning of livestock including cattle and chicken, spread of garbage all over the flooded areas and contaminating water sources.

A needs assessment and registration of the affected families was conducted. Over 200 families have been severely affected and lost their homes and were moved to 7 schools. In Hajjah, local authorities reported 14 people were killed in Sharis District, 100 to 150 households (350 people) displaced, 21 houses were fully damaged and 250 houses partially damaged. Reports also indicated that 400 to 500 households were in need of immediate health, WASH, Shelter/NFI and food assistance. In Al Hudaydah approximately 150 families were displaced and were living in open areas; however, many more were also affected. Assessment reports indicate that there has been loss of human lives, properties, livelihood, and public infrastructure. The most affected were farms, public services, markets, houses, schools, etc. The impact of the flash flood was further aggravated by the ongoing armed conflict and lack of basic services and limited capacity of disaster response and preparedness. The infrastructure has been damaged especially bridges and highways which were already affected by airstrikes. Although the disaster hit seven governorates, the level of devastation varied considerably from one place to another. Malaria and dengue fever were expected to be spreading, so awareness sessions were included in the plan.

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society

Since its establishment in 1968/1970, YRCS has been working as one of the components of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (RCRC) to alleviate the human suffering.

Since the escalation of conflict in March 2015, YRCS has been a key actor in Yemen in responding to the unprecedented humanitarian needs in the country. The ICRC is leading the Movement international efforts to respond to the needs of affected population. Given the on-going crisis as well as frequent occurrence of natural disasters, the YRCS has gained experience in disaster and crisis response and mitigating the risks associated with this.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

Movement Coordination

The YRCS has built partnerships with several partner National Societies, namely Danish Red Cross, French Red Cross, German Red Cross and Norwegian Red Cross. The partners' support covers a wide range of development interventions including Disaster Management, Community Based Health and First Aid, Water and Sanitation and building resilience in communities. Since April 2015, the priority of all partner National Societies has been shifted towards emergency response, with the changing needs and context of the country.

Since 2013 the IFRC country office has been supporting the YRCS in building its capacity with focus on disaster management, health and organisational development. Building on its previous interventions and DREF operations in Yemen, the IFRC started immediate communication on the night of the disaster with YRCS headquarters and branches to launch the necessary assessments at branch level.

Several meetings were also held with YRCS focal persons at DM and programme management to identify losses, gaps and urgent relief needs, and coordinate response efforts in an efficient and timely manner. Following the heavy rains and flooding, a Movement Coordination meeting took place in Sana'a on 16 April, followed-up by several subsequent meetings, out of which a Movement plan for the flood response was developed and adopted. It was agreed that the ICRC would provide essential relief items to the affected areas

through provision of food parcels and NFIs for 1,350 families (750 parcels in Amran, 300 in Hajjah, 100 in Abyan, and 200 in Al Hudaydah already provided). ICRC is also providing first aid kits and visibility items to all YRCS branches responding to the disaster.

For its part the IFRC would provide 650 NFI kits as well as hygiene materials to YRCS branches in order to replenish stocks used in the immediate response.

Coordination and Partnerships

The YRCS has built partnerships with several partner National Societies, namely Danish Red Cross, French Red Cross, German Red Cross and Norwegian Red Cross. Since April 2015, the priority of all partner National Societies has been shifted towards emergency response, with the changing needs and context of the country. Since 2013 the IFRC Office has been supporting the YRCS in building its capacity with focus on DM, health and OD. Building on its previous interventions and DREF operations in Yemen, the IFRC took the lead role in responding to this natural disaster of flash floods. It started immediate communication on the night of the disaster with YRCS Head Quarters and branches and started the necessary assessments at branch level.

Several meetings were also held with YRCS focal persons at DM and programme management to identify losses, gaps and urgent relief needs, and to coordinate response efforts in an efficient and timely manner. Following the heavy rains and flooding, a Movement Coordination meeting took place in Sana'a on 16 April, followed-up by several subsequent meetings, out of which a Movement plan for the flood response was developed and adopted. Upon implementation of the plan, the ICRC provided food parcels and NFIs for 1350 families (750 parcels in Amran, 300 in Hajjah, 100 in Abyan, and 200 in Hodeidah). ICRC also provided first aid kits and visibility items to all YRCS branches responding to the disaster. For its part the IFRC provided 650 NFI kits as well as hygiene materials to YRCS branches in order to replenish stocks used in the immediate response. That was followed by hygiene awareness campaigns and session to local communities in affected areas.

Needs analysis, beneficiary selection, risk assessment and scenario planning

Please refer to the original EPoA, which provides an overview of the needs analysis, beneficiary selection, risk assessment and scenario planning for this DREF operation.

B. Operational strategy and plan

Overall objective

Support the basic living conditions, including health and hygiene, of the flash flood affected population of Amran, Hajjah and Hodeida governorates of Yemen through provision of non-food items, hygiene kits and health awareness campaign for 650 households (4,550 people).

Proposed strategy

The IFRC Yemen Country Office has put together with YRCS, in close coordination with and support from ICRC, a plan of action to the response operation the three branches of Amran, Hajjah, and Hodeida will be targeted as they are the most affected by the disaster. About 650 NFIs household will be procured from local markets, including mattresses, blankets, kitchen sets, and jerry can along with hygiene kits. These items are meant to replenish contingency stocks at the central warehouse located in Sana'a as well as branch warehouses located in strategic locations. As some branches have already responded by sending NFIs from their own stocks they will be compensated with new items stock to be prepared for any future needs. The operation will also cover transportation from Sana'a to districts, mobilization of volunteers (for

assessment, distribution of items, and awareness campaigns of hygiene practices and communicable diseases).

Furthermore, this operation will capitalize on:

- Volunteers mobilization: detailed assessment of the affected areas and analysis of the gaps and available capacities through mobilization of volunteers
- Providing immediate relief support: provision of essential household relief items to facilitate restoration of dignified living conditions
- Balanced approach on shelter and health: In addition to essential household relief items, provision of hygiene kits and awareness campaign to affected population will be done for maintaining sanitation and hygiene
- Ensuring response capacity of YRCS through replenishment of relief items and hygiene kits

Operational support services

Please refer to the original EPoA, which provides an overview of the assistance from Operational support services required for this DREF operation.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

Quality programming / Areas common to all sectors

| Quality programming/ Areas common to all sectors | | | |
|---|--|----|-----------------------|
| Outcome 1: Continuous assessment, analysis and coordination to inform the design and implementation of the DREF operation | Outputs | | % of achievement |
| | Output 1.1: Initial needs assessment are updated following consultation with beneficiaries and inform planning | | 100% |
| | Output 1.2: The findings of evaluations lead to adjustments in on-going plans and future planning as appropriate | | 50% |
| Activities | Is implementation on time? | | % progress (estimate) |
| | Yes | No | |
| 1.1.1 Carry out ongoing assessments | X | | 100% |
| 1.1.2 Modify distribution plans as required based on assessment reports | X | | 100% |
| 1.2.1 Carry out post-distribution monitoring of NFIs and hygiene kits | X | | 100% |
| 1.2.2 Conduct a lessons learned workshop on the operation | | X | 0% |
| Progress towards outcomes | | | |

As a prior step, field assessments were done in all target districts by YRCS teams. Needs and damages were identified. There were some difficulties in collecting accurate data for affected people due to contradicting information and figures. That was overcome by taking the following steps. The YRCS at target branches coordinated with relevant communities and parties involved in registering IDP households. A list of affected families in to be targeted by YRCS was developed, based on its response capacity of the YRCS branch (200HHs). Targeting and distribution of relief was done in coordination with other agencies. Distributions took place according to a card system and direct handing out of items to beneficiaries living in and around to the disaster-affected area.

The current security situation does not allow for an elaborate post distribution monitoring exercise. However, as far as the situation permitted the YRCS performed two process monitoring exercises--during and after distributions. The first one was conducted during the distribution of pre-positioned hygiene kits which took place one month after the distribution of pre-positioned NFIs. The second phase involved contacting the beneficiaries and seeking their feedback on the outcomes of the intervention.

A team from YRCS made a field visit after the distribution and met with beneficiaries to get their feedback on the support and recommendations. Lists were prepared for all those HHs targeted and which received NFIs and hygiene kits. The distributors (YRCS volunteers) registered along with names relevant mobile phone numbers of beneficiaries and let them sign or stamp their fingerprint (in case they could not write). After one month, these lists were used again to call back beneficiaries to get their final impression and get an idea of how their statuses have improved. For this purpose, one a few HHs were contact who were selected randomly from the original list of distribution. That was about 33 HHs (5%) of the total number of targeted 650 HHs in all 3 districts. Some of the questions that were asked to them were:

- Have the relief items come on right time to reduce suffering?
- Were the quantities delivered per HH enough to satisfy urgent needs?
- How was the dealing and treatment (of YRCS volunteers) at the distribution site?
- Any other comments or recommendation on how to improve response and better help affected people?

The beneficiaries reported satisfaction with the support which they said was of great importance to build back their lives. In addition to food items distributed by other agencies, NFIs had favourable impact on finding temporary shelter and maintain good hygiene practises. They recommended further help in future response to help them construct their shelter. One way could be money for works for those who lost their houses (huts). They can rebuild or maintain by themselves and be compensated for nominal amount of \$150 per household. Modification to the distribution plan had been done to fit in with number of beneficiaries. It was planned to cover at least 50 per cent of the affected people, but due to increase of affected people only 20 percent of them were covered by YRCS emergency response. One district in Hodeidah governorate had to be changed to another more affected district to which no support had been directed and to which YRCS responded.

A lessons learnt workshop is yet to be conducted but is planned to be carried out at the end of the operation.

Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion

| Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion | | | |
|---|---|----|-----------------------|
| Outcome 2: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities | Outputs | | % of achievement |
| | Output 2.1: Hygiene-related goods (NFIs) which meet Sphere standards are provided to the target population | | 80% |
| | Output 2.2: Hygiene promotion activities which meet Sphere standards in terms of the identification and use of hygiene items provided to target population and prevent waterborne diseases | | |
| Activities | Is implementation on time? | | % progress (estimate) |
| | Yes | No | |
| 2.1.1 Distribute available hygiene kits to affected communities | X | | 100% |
| 2.1.2 Procure hygiene kits for 650 households for replenishment of stocks and later distribution as needed | | X | 0% |
| 2.1.3 Transport and distribute hygiene kits in affected communities | X | | 100% |
| 2.2.1 Carry out awareness session for local communities | X | | 100% |
| 2.2.2 Transport and distribute leaflets on health, sanitation and hygiene messages | X | | 100% |
| Progress towards outcomes | | | |
| 2.1.1. Hygiene kits have been distributed to the target communities in Amran, Hajjah and Hodeidah | | | |
| 2.1.2 The IFRC country office has started the procurement process for hygiene kits. However, due to the embargo imposed by the coalition forces, transport by normal logistics services can only be done to Salala sea port in Oman after which ICRC will be responsible for the transport to Aden and Hodeida. Once the items have been received in Hodeida, custom clearance and safe transport to Sana'a is deemed to take another one to two weeks. | | | |
| 2.2.1 Awareness sessions on communicable diseases for the local communities has been successfully completed | | | |
| 2.2.2 Dissemination of messages on health, sanitation and hygiene through leaflets was completed | | | |

Shelter and settlements (and household items)

| Shelter and settlements (and household items) | | | |
|---|----------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Outcome 3: The immediate shelter and settlement needs of the target population are met | Outputs | | % of achievement |
| | | Output 3.1: Essential Household Items (EHI)/non-food items (NFI) are provided to the target population receipt, Beneficiary satisfaction surveys). | |
| Activities | Is implementation on time? | | % progress (estimate) |
| | Yes | No | |
| 3.1.1 Distribute available NFIs to affected communities | X | | 100% |
| 3.1.2 Procure NFIs for 650 households for replenishment of stocks and later distribution as needed | | X | 0% |
| 3.1.3 Transport and distribute NFIs in affected communities | X | | 100% |
| Progress towards outcomes | | | |
| <p>3.1.1 Prepositioned NFIs were distributed to the target communities in Amran, Hajjah and Hodeidah. The beneficiaries reported satisfaction with the support which they said was of great importance to build back their lives</p> <p>3.1.2 The procurement of NFIs has not been finalised yet due to delays in local procurement and also delays experienced in internationally (Dubai, UAE) sourced procurements. It is expected that this will be completed within the extended timeframe for the operation.</p> | | | |

Contact information

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

- **Yemen Red Crescent Society:** Mohammed Sawlan, Disaster Management Coordinator, Yemen Red Crescent Society, phone Mob: + 967 733630081, Email: sawlan.mohamed@gmail.com
- **IFRC Yemen country office:** Pitambar Aryal, (Ag) Country Representative for Yemen, phone Mob; +967 739633551, Email: pitambar.aryal@ifrc.org
- **IFRC MENA Region:** Mads Brinch Hansen, Head of Emergencies and Crises Unit, phone Mob. +961 76 174 468; Email: mads.brinch@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Geneva:** Christine South, Operations Quality Assurance Senior Officer; phone: +41 22 730 45 29; email: christine.south@ifrc.org

For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- **IFRC MENA Region:** Sami Fakhouri, partnerships and development coordinator; phone +961 81 311 918; email: sami.fakhouri@ifrc.org

For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting):

- **IFRC MENA Region:** Robert Ondrusek, PMER Coordinator; phone:+96179300561;email: robert.ondrusek@ifrc.org

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.



The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.