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Emergency Plan of Action Operation Update

Yemen: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF n° MDRYE007	GLIDE n° FF-2019-000054-YEM
EPoA update n° 001; 28 November 2019	Timeframe covered by this update: June - November 2019
Operation start date: 11 June 2019	Operation timeframe: 6 months / 31 st December 2019 Extension 1 month included (from 30 th November)
Overall operation budget: CHF 227,910	
N° of people being assisted: 14,000 people (approx. 2,000 households)	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: ICRC and IFRC	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: NAMCHA, Local Authorities	

Summary of major revisions made to emergency plan of action:

The current operation has gone through severe logistical and access constraints. Initially the operation was planned as stock replenishment. However, during the implementation period Yemen faced an escalation of the conflict in the South which impeded a smooth custom clearance and mobilization of goods from Aden to respective targeted locations for relief distributions. This situation was approached with a local procurement of items which had strong challenges on ensuring quality and availability as per our standards. Distributions will be now imminent according to YRCS verified beneficiary list. However, an extension of the operational implementation period is required to ensure proper security and logistic planning.

The present Operation Update plans an extended timeframe of one month to ensure the final implementation of household distributions in the targeted areas. Proposal is therefore to finalize the operation by 31st December 2019.

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

Since the mid of May, Yemen experienced heavy rainfall in different parts of the country, causing widespread floods, which were reported since the second week of June and required immediate assistance. According to the needs assessments conducted from 11 June, at least twelve governates have been affected: Aden, Marib, Taiz, Hajja, Ibb, Al Bayda, Al Jawf, Dahmer, Rhyamah, Lahj Hadramaut and Sa'ada.

According to the preliminary information, on 17 June, from the National Authority for the Management and Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Recovery (NAMCHA), 80,000 people, including Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and the host families, have been affected by the flash floods. Among them, Hajja, Aden, Lahj and Marib were the main areas with IDPs camps being affected along with the local communities.

The population in the affected areas have lost their livelihoods, essential assets and belongings. The areas were also impacted by subsequent floods during August especially in Hajjah. The humanitarian actors have serious concerns

about the possible deterioration of the health situation due to the current cholera outbreak or recently with other potential evolving situations like dengue fever in Hajjah.

Summary of current response

Overview of Host National Society

Yemen Red Crescent Society (YRCS) immediately activated their volunteers to support relief and evacuation activities in support to the affected communities. Over 100 volunteers were deployed for activities related as well with first aid, psychosocial support and distributions of food, water and essential non-food items.

The YRCS branches activated during this DREF operation operated in coordination with the local authorities and delivering support as per their capacities whilst the procurement of the items would take place in order to complement the support with essential household packages to meet their basic needs.

In the initial response, people were assisted with first aid through the YRCS volunteers in the respected branches.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

YRCS activated the disaster management capacities since the onset of the emergency. YRCS organized three Emergency Task Forces were maintained to mobilize support and resources from Movement partners in-country. ICRC released emergency stock also prepositioned and was able to initially support communities affected in Marib, Sa'ada, mobilizing essential NFI and Food for more than 1,195 households.

Given the ongoing conflict in the country since 2014, there is a limited but solid presence of Movement partners in Yemen. IFRC has a legal status in Yemen and has been present since 2003. Key areas of support from IFRC are Disaster Management, Health, WASH and National Society Development (NSD). The IFRC country office has a multidisciplinary team of 14 members including programmes (DM, Health/WASH and OD) but also support services. IFRC is actively supporting the YRCS in operational planning and coordination among partners for setting up this emergency response.

As Lead Agency, the ICRC coordinates the international operational activities of the Movement in Yemen together with the YRCS. The ICRC is also enabling the presence of IFRC, German RC, Danish RC and NorCross in Yemen through Coordinated Activities Agreements (CAA) and the provision of related services (security, logistics, administration, communication among others).

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

At the national level, both NAMCHA and Executive Unit in Yemen, have been active in conducting assessments and sharing situation reports to humanitarian actors, including national and international NGOs, UN actors and other response stakeholders.

The CCCM Cluster initiated an assessment to identify the needs and coordinate response at the IDP sites. Distributions from different stakeholders are ongoing. The King Salman Relief Centre has provided non-food items, such as 300 tents, 1,800 blankets, 600 mats, and 370 shelters in Aden, Lahj, Hadramaut and Ma'rib; 300 food baskets to cover the needs of IDPs in Aden and Lahj for a month. UNHCR has distributed 200 NFIs and tents, in Aden, and 550 tents, in Lahj. UNICEF distributed hygiene kits to 500 families, in Lahj, and provided trucks to remove stagnant water, in Al Rebat IDP camp. IOM distributed 1,000 NFIs and enhances shelter kits for IDP camps, in Aden and Lahj; provided NFIs and emergency shelter kits to 57 families in Ibb Governorate and 74 families in Taiz Governorate as well as supported the removal of stagnant water in 22 May Camp where the migrants were detained. The NGO Caravanes Solidaires distributed 500 food baskets to the displaced families in Al Meshkafa IDP sites. In Hajja, Oxfam distributed water chlorination tablets to 14,753 flood-affected families including IDPs and host families.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Needs analysis

Heavy rains in the last weeks of May caused major flash floods in 12 governorates in Yemen, forcing the displacement of people who have lost their properties and livelihoods. YRCS deployed volunteers in the branches to support immediate relief assistance and conduct needs assessments in the most affected communities. Many people have lost houses and assets. The main priorities identified were related to shelter, essential non-food items and livelihoods.

The needs were exacerbated by different factors. Among those affected, there was a major presence of internal displaced persons in Hajja and Aden are IDPs, who were living in poor housing conditions that were completely damaged.

The current operation combined the efforts from YRCS with support from other stakeholders and does not increase the number of people to be assisted with DREF funding.

Operation Risk Assessment

During the first weeks of the emergency the authorities were working on facilitating the restoration of the main roads to grant access to all affected areas. The security situation continued to be major factor as the ongoing conflict remains active and affected the mobilization of assets.

Whilst YRCS has a very good level of acceptance in the communities nationwide the limited access to the affected areas has been one of the main risks. The highly volatile situation was exacerbated by major attacks in Aden during the second half of August which caused important blockages and delays on the release of household items that IFRC and YRCS had shipped to Aden port from the strategic warehouse in Dubai. This situation required an important effort to guarantee the safety of personnel and assets and renting premises to ensure safe custody of household items in the governorate of Aden whilst preparing the clearance for road transport to Sana'a and targeted locations in the north of the country.

At this stage the situation is still complex and Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, similar to other humanitarian actors, are facing challenges to mobilize humanitarian assets from north to south and vice versa. As a mitigation measure, the operation proposed local procurement of the assets which would be either replenishing the stock brought from IFRC regional warehouse or distributed directly to the beneficiaries. However, the procurement process faced also important delays in order to ensure quantities and qualities required as per IFRC standards.

The current availability of household items is enabling the continuity of the distributions in the targeted locations, which will ensure the complementarity of actions from YRCS branches in the onset of the disaster with the household present needs.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Proposed strategy

Overall Operational objective

The overall objective of this DREF operation is to meet the immediate needs of 2,000 households (14,000 people) affected by the heavy rain and floods in Aden, Hajjah, Lahj and Sa'ada through the distribution of non-food relief items.

Based on the approved operation YRCS with the support of IFRC starting to conduct verification for the beneficiaries in the four targeted branches, Aden, Lahj, Hajja and Sa'ada to come up with list of beneficiaries affected by the disaster. The verification conducted for the list of beneficiaries provided by the Executive Unit and NAMSHA. At the branches level coordination took place with the local authorities and the other organization for the response that YRCS will be providing to the affected families. At the national level, coordination was taking place with the Shelter/CCCM cluster on the response and the type of intervention. The beneficiaries selected was from both IDPs and host communities.

IFRC supported YRCS in the procurement of the materials stated in the EPoA, the procurement was made locally due to the difficulty of importing items to Yemen and long time to go through international procurement. Items were procured and delivered to YRCS central warehouse.

Also, DREF training and lesson learnt workshop with the support of DREF Capacity Building Delegate took place, 3 days workshop was conducted at YRCS HQ having participation from both HQ and the targeted branches in addition to other branches who are involved in different emergency response.

Due to the delay in procurement, discussion was made with NS to use the available stock arrived in Aden and then replenish it with the stock from the DREF operation, but due to difficulty of the transportation and access between North and South, YRCS agreed to use the available materials in Aden for the response and start the distribution as the beneficiaries list was already ready.

One-month extension was requested to fulfil the commitment and achieve the overall objective of this operation to support 2000 affected families with NFIs, the reason is due to the delay in the procurement process to ensure compliance with the IFRC procedures and specification and the agreement to use the available stock that YRCS have.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN



Shelter

People planned: 2,000 households (14,000 people)

Male: 7,140 people

Female: 6,860 people

Outcome 1: Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households provided with emergency shelter and settlement assistance	2000	0

Output 1.1: Short- term settlement assistance is provided to affected households

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households assisted	2000	0

Progress towards outcomes

YRCS branches deployed volunteers to the affected areas to ensure first emergency response including first aid, evacuation and psychosocial support. Needs assessments and coordination with authorities and humanitarian stakeholders has been maintained.

The YRCS selected branches for this operation initiated distributions from other Movement components such as ICRC. Currently YRCS branches in Aden, Lahj, Hajjah and Saada have reassessed the needs of the affected communities in their respective governorates and listed the distribution plan to be conducted in the coming weeks.

Whilst the main challenges in the operation were initially linked with the road access to the affected locations, the logistic constraints have been a major factor for delays in this operation. The procurement process for obtaining supplies within the local market were lengthy to ensure quality and quantity required. At the same time, the clearance from items transported from IFRC regional warehouse in Dubai experienced major constraints including deviation of the shipment for inspection, delays in custom clearance and the major complications of safe transportation from the port of Aden to the affected areas, especially in the north of the country.



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People planned: 2,000 households (14,000 people)

Male: 7,140 people

Female: 6,860 people

Outcome 1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# households/persons provided with safe water services that meet agreed standards according to specific operational and programmatic context	2000	0

Output 1.1:

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Hygiene-related goods (NFIs) which meet Sphere standards and training on how to use those goods is provided to the target population	2000	0

Progress towards outcomes

The implementation of the activities within this Area of Focus have experimented the same constraints as explained above in Shelter. These were especially related to security and logistical access and availability of assets.

The activities implemented by the branches were nevertheless important and critical for responding to the needs of the affected people, especially in Hajjah which was one of the governorates most affected. These activities included the coordination with local actors, evacuation and rescue activities as well as distributions conducted with support from other Movement components such as ICRC.

Strengthen National Society

Outcome S1.1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>NS will adopt standard procedures for logistics and financial management.</i>	See below	

Output 1.1: Output S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i># volunteers deployed for emergency response</i>	80	

Outcome S3.1: The IFRC secretariat, together with National Societies uses their unique position to influence decisions at local, national and international levels that affect the most vulnerable.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>The IFRC and the YRCS advocate for the needs of the most vulnerable population to be addressed in the disaster response.</i>	See below	

Output S3.1.2: IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluation that informs advocacy, resource mobilization and programming.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>The Lessons Learnt report, with recommendations, is shared with relevant partners after the Lessons Learnt Workshop.</i>	See below	

Progress towards outcomes

IFRC and YRCS follow and comply with standardized procurement processes to enable highest quality in the elements we deliver. The availability and time of delivery for the assets procured in this operation took substantial time and has been identified as one of the major gaps to address both by IFRC and the National Society.

A lessons learnt workshop was conducted in Sana'a during 6 – 8 November with presence of YRCS staff at headquarter and branches level. Among the most relevant lessons discussed the following ones were identified:

- To be better prepare for responding to disaster the best use of the DREF funding as replenishment*
- Emergency response fund if activated and used can be replenished by the DREF fund if requested.*
- To overcome the delay happened during the current response, it is better if NFIs stock is available at the branches level to directly respond and later on it can be replenished by the DREF.*
- There is no contingency plan at the national or branches level, to be better prepared to respond to any disasters.*
- There is no clear Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the response, which will support the volunteers to be guided with clear procedures when the disaster strikes.*

D. Budget

The budget approved for this operation remains the same and has not required any major changes or additional disbursement.

Reference documents



Click here for:

- Previous Appeals and updates

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

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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 (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian 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:



Save lives.
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace**.