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DREF Operation Yemen: Flash floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF Operation	Operation n° MDRYE005; Glide n° FF-2016-000034-YEM
Date of issue: 22 April 2016	Date of disaster: 13 April 2016
Operation manager: Pitambar Aryal, Acting Head of Country office, IFRC Yemen	Point of contact: Mohammed Sawlan, Disaster Management Coordinator, Yemen Red Crescent Society
Operation start date: 16 April 2016	Expected timeframe: 5 months
Overall operation budget: CHF 140,308	
Number of people affected: Approximately 29,750 overall	Number of people to be assisted: 650 households (4,550 people)
Host National Society presence 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 Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC).	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: UNHCR, WFP, Oxfam, Danish Refugee Council, local civil society groups	

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

On 13 and 14 April, 2016, heavy rainfall initiated widespread flooding that swept across at least five governorates in Yemen killing at least 20 people and affecting more than 4,250 families (29,750 people) in six governorates (Al Hudaydah, Amran, Hajjah, Sana'a, Abyan, Al Mahwit, and Marib) in Yemen. The floods have caused severe damage to vital infrastructure, property, livestock and crops. Security officials report that small dams have also collapsed as a result including two in Hajjah and Amran governorates.

The affected people urgently need shelter, food, non-food items (NFIs), water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH), and health assistance.

The most affected governorates are Abyan, Amran, Hajjah, and Hodeidah. Some of the districts are severely affected within these three governorates including districts of Amran, Jabal Yazid, Sharis, Bait Qodam, Al Zuhrah, and Al Luhayah.



A YRCS Amran branch volunteer assessing damage caused by the heavy rainfall
Source: YRCS

In Amran governorate the two districts of Amran and Jabal Yazid were severely affected. It is estimated that in more than 800 families in Amran district, and 220 families in Jabal Yazid district are now 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 is currently underway. Over 200 families have been severely affected and lost their homes and have been moved to 7 schools including: Aisha, Al Hamzah, 22 May, Al Hussain, Al Zubairi, Mohsen Al Sa'r, and Al Sa'r Complex.

In Hajjah, local authorities reported 14 people have been killed in Sharis District, 100 to 150 households (350 people) displaced, 21 houses were fully damaged and 250 houses partially damaged. Initial reports indicate that 400 to 500 households are in need of immediate health, WASH, Shelter/NFI and food assistance.

In Hodeidah approximately 150 families have been displaced and are 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 are also 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. One of the main bridges connecting Sana'a with the sea port of Hodediah has been totally damaged after being temporarily repaired. Although the disaster has hit seven governorates, the level of devastation varies considerably from one place to another. Malaria and dengue fever are expected to be spread. The Ministry of Health has sent a medical team for assessments. People are in urgent need of shelter, food, drinking water and medicines.

In Sanaa governorate, Bani Matar area, Al Hadab sub-district, Al Usha village; a total of 15 houses have collapsed, and five half damaged and may collapse any time, leaving 35 families affected.

In Abyan 100 families are affected, where ICRC is supporting with relief assistance to these families with both food stuffs and non-food items.

The current floods and landslides came during a difficult time as the country is affected by armed conflict and the overall response and coping capacity of the country has declined. The YRCS has started mobilizing and deployed all its resources and capacities to respond to the current situation. The branches of Hajjah and Amran sent their assessment teams as soon as access to affected areas was possible. Initial figures showed that the magnitude of the disaster was significant and included a high loss in human lives. The branches helped in evacuation and rescue of people stranded in water and whose houses were ruined. They also distributed some NFIs to those families and individuals who were left homeless. NFIs distributed in Hajjah covered the immediate needs of 200 families among those evacuated to safer places.

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.

YRCS since 2015 is a main actor in Yemen to respond to the ongoing crises due to the situation of Internal Armed conflict. 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 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 started immediate communication on the night of the disaster with YRCS Head Quarters 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 1350 families (750 parcels in Amran, 300 in Hajjah, 100 in Abyan, and 200 in Hodaidah 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 will provide 650 NFI kits as well as hygiene materials to YRCS branches in order to replenish stocks used in the immediate response.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

UNHCR is directly involved in providing NFIs to affected governorates. It was evident in Amran branch where the UN agency collaborated with the YRCS branch to distribute 362 HHs of NFIs to affected families. There are other organizations actively contributing to the response efforts and provision of support including Danish Refugees Council, Norwegian Refugees Council, MSF, and Oxfam.

Needs analysis, beneficiary selection, risk assessment and scenario planning

Rapid assessments have been carried out by YRCS staff and volunteers in coordination with other actors in nearly all affected areas. Based on these, priority needs have been identified around health, shelter, food, hygiene and household items. YRCS and other actors responded to many of those in most need but require further support to address gaps and replenish stocks.

The below table provides a snapshot of assessed needs based on currently available information:

Name of Governorates	Affected population	Damaged houses		IDPs			Needs			
		Fully damaged HHs	Partially Damaged HHs	In host families	In schools	In open spaces	Food	FA Kits	NFI	Hygiene Kits
Amran	7,200	200	Unknown	800	200	250	750	10	362	362
Hajja	1,900 (14 people killed)	21	250	100	0	250	300	30	300	300
Hodeida	14,000 (8 killed)	Un known	2,000	0	0	150	200	10	200	200
Sana'a	Minimal impact based on current information									
Mahwit	Minimal impact based on current information									
Abyan	700									
Marib	5,950		850							
TOTAL	29,750 (4,250 families)									

The monsoon season in Yemen starts from July and continues until August however during late spring Yemen receives heavy rain fall. As these rains may continue for some time, it may overstretch the YRCS's response capacity. Therefore the focus has been given not only to responding to the existing situation but also replenishing relief items and hygiene kits so that YRCS would be able to respond future disasters.

Risk	Mitigation
Insecurity from on-going fighting will reduce level of access to affected households and threaten worsening of needs	The YRCS will mobilize local volunteers who are familiar with the local context and needs of affected population. RC/RC joint response will be done and use of RC/RC visibility materials will be done, it is hoped that this will provide safer access. Similarly, regular coordination and communication with local authorities and conflict parties will be done for ensuring access to affected areas.
Further rains result in more flash flooding and reduce level of access due to destroyed infrastructure	It has been anticipated that the rainfall will continue, which may further deteriorate health and living conditions of affected population along with damaged infrastructure. Therefore, information will be adequately shared with donor communities and authorities through humanitarian country coordination mechanisms and cluster systems to address the increased needs. Likewise, prepositioning of relief items will be done in YRCS warehouses at HQs and branches as preparedness measures and further strengthening the response capacity of YRCS.
Procurement of NFI items in local markets is delayed to	Having analyzed the security situation, market functionality and logistical difficulties, the duration for implementation of DREF has been proposed for five

insufficient supply, lack of capacity, and/or other challenges linked to general insecurity	months. This will provide adequate time to buy items from local market, in case local market doesn't function, efforts will be made to use ICRC logistic capacity based in Shalala and IFRC logistic capacity based in Dubai.
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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

The key function of the process includes assessment at the field right after the disaster which had been done earlier with the help of the three affected branches in Hodeida, Amran, and Hajjah. Despite the difficulties in getting access and transportation to remote affected areas, the branches came up with statistics of damage and number of affected people in a timely manner. In addition, information received from other agencies has been collected to have a wider perspective of the disaster magnitude and prepare for a response. 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. Implementation will be closely monitored to ensure that SPHERE standards are used and priority has been given to highly affected population at district level. The IFRC and YRCS will use its PMER capacities to monitor and evaluate the ongoing activities, overcome any challenges, and come up with adequate and timely reports.

Human resources

The YRCS and IFRC country Office in Yemen will utilize their existing capacities to support the overall implementation of the operation. The YRCS HQ staff involved in supporting the operation includes DM Unit two senior staff (DM Coordinator, and the Field DM Coordinator who is already in the field for assisting branches in distribution and assessment), executive director, programme coordinator, and storekeeper (will be involved at a later stage). The three target affected branches of Hodeida, Amran, and Hajjah had deployed their volunteers in the field right after the disaster and now are distributing NFIs and hygiene kits to beneficiaries. The IFRC office, along with ICRC and several PNSs, is one of the key Movement partners of the NS in the response operation and is providing technical/financial support.

Logistics and supply chain

All items of NFIs and hygiene kits will be procured from local markets. However due to the on-going armed conflict in the country, the logistical capacity of the entire country has been affected. Fuel is rarely available in the open market however it can be obtained in the black market though at double or triple the open market price. Likewise, due to a blockade of supply routes and ports, the availability of essential goods has been constrained. There is no power

supply at all in Sana'a and a lack of power and fuel means local industries are non-functional. Therefore, it has been envisaged that the procurement of proposed relief items will take longer than usual time, and this consideration is the reason why the five month operational timeframe has been proposed. The IFRC/YRCS have developed extensive experience in the process, nonetheless, and will be coordinated and perform required activities according to standards. The NFIs will procure mattress, blankets, kitchen sets, hygiene kits and Jerry cans. The whole quantity will be delivered to YRCS central warehouse in Sana'a and branch warehouses at governorate level as part of replenishment for the items that they have already sent to affected branches. Similarly, essential IEC materials will be produced for conducting the sanitation and hygiene campaign.

Communications

The YRCS communication focal person with the support of IFRC reporting officer will collect the information from the field and share to IFRC regional office and other Movement and non-Movement stakeholders. Information bulletin and web based stories will be published to disseminate devastation and efforts being made by YRCS with the support of IFRC for improving lives of vulnerable people. For collecting information and publishing the news stories budget being allocated under the communication and monitoring section will be used. Furthermore, the IFRC Yemen country office, together with ICRC and other partners will put further efforts to strengthen YRCS communication capacity and share regular information through longer term funding under the IFRC's Yemen 2016 Operational Plan.

Security

Security is volatile in the country due to the on-going armed conflict which may impact negatively on the timely completion of activities. Nonetheless, encouragingly there is at present a truce between the warring parties, which remains active, and has seen a reduction in airstrikes on northern parts of the country. The YRCS will use its logo on all trucks travelling to governorates and volunteers will as usual use their vests for more visibility. There will also be close coordination with ICRC and authorities who are in control of territories targeted by the operation.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)

The YRCS volunteers and DM staff will carry out regular monitoring and supervision visits to monitor activities carried out as per the agreed plan. Similarly, the monitoring visit will also provide ample opportunity to collect good practices and challenges faced which will be corner stones to improve planning and implementation of emergency response operation in the days to come. Based on security situation, the IFRC country or regional office will also organize monitoring visits to observe the response operation and also have interaction with the beneficiaries.

A post distribution monitoring has been planned for and its results will inform the operation in order to adjust it if need be. Efforts will be made to organize a lessons learned workshop after completion of the response operation which will be a good venue to review implementation process and also rectify whether response services were accountable to beneficiaries and also develop way forward for the future emergency response.

Administration and Finance

Administrative and financial tasks will be carried out by YRCS staff with the technical and financial support of IFRC. The proposed budget will cover staff costs required to run the operation.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion

Outcome 1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities						
Output 1.1 Hygiene-related goods (NFIs) which meet Sphere standards are provided to the target population						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicator: n° of households provided with a set of essential hygiene <i>items</i> (Detailed beneficiary registration records disaggregated by sex and age) target: 650 households in 3 governorates (Amran, Hajjah, Hodeidah) 						
Activities planned	Month	1	2	3	4	5
Distribute available hygiene kits to affected communities						
Procure hygiene kits for 650 households for replenishment of stocks and later distribution as needed						
Transport and distribute hygiene kits in affected communities						
Output 1.2 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. .						
Indicator.						
n° of people reached by hygiene promotion activities						
Carry out awareness session for local communities						
Transport and distribute leaflets on health, sanitation and hygiene messages						

Shelter and settlements (and household items)

Outcome 2: The immediate shelter and settlement needs of the target population are met.						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Output 2.1 Essential Household Items (EHI)/non-food items (NFI) are provided to the target population Indicator: n° of households provided with Essential Household Items that meet agreed standards for the specific operational context (<i>e.g. Sphere, national or cluster standards</i>)(Beneficiary registration/distribution records with sign-off for receipt, Beneficiary satisfaction surveys). 						
Activities planned	Month	1	2	3	4	5
Distribute available NFIs to affected communities						
Procure NFIs for 650 households for replenishment of stocks and later distribution as needed						
Transport and distribute NFIs in affected communities						

Quality programming / Areas common to all sectors

Outcome 3: Continuous and detailed assessment and analysis is used to inform the design and implementation of the operation
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Output 3.1 Initial needs assessment are updated following consultation with beneficiaries and inform planning						
Activities planned	Month	1	2	3	4	5
Carry out on-going assessment						
Modify distribution plans as required based on assessment reports						
Output 3.2: The findings of evaluations lead to adjustments in on-going plans and future planning as appropriate						
Carry out post-distribution monitoring of NFIs and hygiene kits						
Conduct a lessons learned workshop on the operation						

Budget**DREF Yemen Flash Floods 2016**

22/04/2016

Budget Group	Multilateral Response	Inter-Agency Shelter Coord.	Bilateral Response	Appeal Budget CHF	Expenditure CHF
Shelter - Relief	0			0	0
Shelter - Transitional	0			0	0
Construction - Housing	0			0	0
Construction - Facilities	0			0	0
Construction - Materials	0			0	0
Clothing & Textiles	45,240			45,240	0
Food	0			0	0
Seeds & Plants	0			0	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	13,650			13,650	0
Medical & First Aid	0			0	0
Teaching Materials	0			0	0
Utensils & Tools	19,890			19,890	0
Other Supplies & Services	0			0	0
Emergency Response Units	0			0	0
Cash Disbursements	0			0	0
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	78,780	0	0	78,780	0
Land & Buildings	0			0	0
Vehicles Purchase	0			0	0
Computer & Telecom Equipment	0			0	0
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	0			0	0
Medical Equipment	0			0	0
Other Machinery & Equipment	0			0	0
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0
Storage, Warehousing	14,400			14,400	0
Distribution & Monitoring	0			0	0
Transport & Vehicle Costs	2,100			2,100	0
Logistics Services	0			0	0
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	16,500	0	0	16,500	0
International Staff	0			0	0
National Staff	0			0	0
National Society Staff	3,600			3,600	0
Volunteers	5,040			5,040	0
Total PERSONNEL	8,640	0	0	8,640	0
Consultants	0			0	0
Professional Fees	0			0	0
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0	0	0	0	0
Workshops & Training	10,500			10,500	0
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	10,500	0	0	10,500	0
Travel	11,700			11,700	0
Information & Public Relations	0			0	0
Office Costs	585			585	0
Communications	5,040			5,040	0
Financial Charges	0			0	0
Other General Expenses	0			0	0

Shared Support Services					
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	17,325	0	0	17,325	0
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	8,563	0	0	8,563	0
Total INDIRECT COSTS	8,563	0	0	8,563	0
TOTAL BUDGET	140,308	0	0	140,308	0

Contact information

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 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.

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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.

