

DREF operation final report

Yemen/MENA: Food insecurity

DREF operation n° MDRYE003
GLIDE n° OT-2012-0000073-YEM
06 June, 2012

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency response. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

Period covered by this update: 15 August – 31 October, 2012.

Summary: CHF 276,447 was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 8th June, 2012 to support the Yemen Red Crescent Society to carry out assessments of food insecure Communities, and to deliver assistance and provide health awareness messaging to some 16,000 persons affected by the current food insecurity situation.

The food security situation in Yemen is at crisis levels and there is a need for scaled up action.

Around one million children in Yemen under the age of five are estimated to suffer from malnutrition.

Susceptible to common conditions and diseases such as diarrhoea, malaria and acute respiratory infections, 267,000 children are at risk of dying without proper nutrition interventions. Many more are vulnerable to longer-term and often irreversible health problems. In a chronically underdeveloped country, characterised by unrest and conflict, water scarcity and poor access to sanitation, as well as a growing population and collapsing state services, the needs are extreme nationwide.

An assessment team deployed in June, to identify the areas where Yemen RC could assist those most affected and identify potential support to address food insecurity situation and its consequences on specific regions of Yemen. The team drafted a plan for support, however, the decision to move forward and to discuss the options for an emergency appeal was put on hold until the new country representative arrives.



Training of community volunteers on health and nutrition assessment and awareness in Bani Hushaish district, Sana'a governorate. Photo: IFRC

A training of trainers workshop was held in Sana'a to build the capacities of community members and spread the message on health and nutrition. In order to improve the health conditions in the targeted areas, and to support the distribution of the supplementary Plumpy food provided by Yemen RC through their joint MoU with WFP.

Supplementary Plumpy, donated by WFP, was distributed for 1,000 children between the age of 6 to 59 months and so were the food packages purchased by YRCS for 1,000 households (the families of the malnourished children or lactating and pregnant women) distribution was taking place on a monthly basis for three months in Sana'a branch and Hajjah, and for two months in Baidha branches. At the end of the intervention children receiving food assistance showed noticeable improvement.

This DREF allocation has been replenished by the Netherlands Red Cross/Government. The major donors and partners of the DREF include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden and the USA, as well as DG ECHO, the UK Department for International Development (DFID) the Medtronic, Z Zurich and Coca Cola Foundations and other corporate and private donors.

The IFRC, on behalf of the Yemen Red Crescent Society, would like to extend thanks to all partners for their generous contributions.

[<click here for the final financial report, or here to view contact details>](#)

The situation

The food security situation in Yemen has reached crisis levels and there is a need for scaled up action. According to OCHA, some 44 percent – 10 million people of the country's population is food insecure. This includes not only Yemenis, but also migrants and refugees from other countries to whom Yemen is host today. Of these, half are unable to produce or buy enough food and in many areas families are resorting to desperate means skipping meals and reducing portion sizes. The impact of this alarming, especially when it comes to women and children.

Over one million children in Yemen under the age of five are estimated to suffer from malnutrition, as families struggle to pay for food in one of the region's poorest countries. Susceptible to common conditions and diseases such as diarrhoea, malaria and acute respiratory infections. Many more are vulnerable to longer-term and often irreversible health problems.

Although the focus of the international community has, until recently, been on northern Yemen, further assessments have shown that governorates in the south, west and north of the country are all at a critical level in terms of malnutrition. In a chronically underdeveloped country, characterised by unrest and conflict, water scarcity and poor access to sanitation, as well as a growing population and collapsing state services, the needs are extreme nationwide.

Constraints and challenges:

- Due to possible contamination from unsafe water at local community level, provision of porridge was removed from the plan based on experts recommendation. The NS proposal of providing food baskets to families was integrated into the plan. The basket consisted local food items such as wheat, rice, oil, sugar, etc. DREF was extended until the end of October to allow time for procurement of the food parcels instead of the porridge



YRCS and community trained volunteers doing field MAM assessment in remote villages of Midi, in Hajjah governorate. Photo: IFRC

- The limited organizational capacities of the NS, and the onset of the holy month of Ramadan and the celebration of Eid and the process to recruit a country representative delayed the implementation of the planned activities.
- Differences in interpretation of the agreement with WFP regarding the transportation of Plumpy consignments from WFP warehouse to distribution points at district level or at least to governorates. An agreement was reached to facilitate transportation in cooperation with WFP and local authorities in some districts.

Coordination and partnerships

During the whole operation, IFRC worked closely with YRCS to ensure smooth flow of activities according to plan and time framework. Both Movement partners established a close working relation with WFP which is a key partner in the operation. WFP provided supplementary food items (Plumpy) for distribution to children under five suffering from or vulnerable to moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). The distribution of plumpy went together with food baskets which first phase started in the second half of September 2012.

Two agreements were signed between WFP and YRCS in June, including a Technical Agreement and a Transfer Agreement ensure proper role distribution between the partnering organizations. WFP expressed their strong willingness to continue cooperation with YRCS to extend their support to other governorates, especially in Taiz, Aden, and Lahj with focus on western coastal areas. They are also ready to provide special food items for pregnant and lactating mothers in upcoming phases.

Within the RC/RC Movement regular updates and information on the DREF implementation were shared by the Yemen RC and the Federation with partners through the Movement Operation committee (MOC). Yemen RC is taking the lead on the DREF implementation, supported by the International Federation, and also coordinating with other stakeholders such as the local authorities, UN agencies and local communities at the targeted areas.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards outcomes

Relief / food distributions	
<p>Outcome: The health and malnutrition levels of 1,000 children under the age of five are improved through the provision of high energy porridge in the three food insecure governorates of Sana'a, Al Baida, and Hajja for three months through the YRCS health care centres.</p>	
<p>Outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,000 vulnerable children suffering from food insecurity have received the necessary food items which contributed to improving their health and nutrition. 	<p>Activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Train/retrain NS volunteers on assessment and distribution techniques and methods 2. Assess most vulnerable children in need of assistance accessed via YRCS health centres 3. Distribute of porridge to 1,000 children below five years, providing 10 kilograms to each child on a monthly basis over three months in each the three mentioned governorates. 4. Distribute of Plumpy (92 grams daily) to 1,000 children below five years, providing 2800 grams to each child on a monthly basis over three months in each the three mentioned governorates. 5. Distribute of food package to 1,000 Households of the children below five years on a monthly basis over three months in each the three mentioned governorates. 6. Purchase and transport of food items. 7. Prepare distribution tools using the list of the beneficiaries targeted 8. Ensure monitoring, evaluation and reporting on

	<p>the distribution</p> <p>9. Appointment of a local Operations Support Officer full time who will also oversee the implementation and maintain the information flows between all parties. The costs will include his salary and office costs related to the position</p>
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Progress:

1. In order to well effectively run and implement the DREF operation and insure regular reporting three field coordinators have been identified for the three targeted governorates branches in addition to one coordinator at the HQ to coordinate
A series of trainings were conducted to build the NS staff and volunteers on assessment and distribution techniques and methods in order to insure reaching the desired results.
 - Training on health and nutrition assessment:
 - o Training of branch coordinators and volunteers trainers at HQ on health assessment and nutrition. Participants included one coordinator and 4 volunteers from each of the three branches.
 - o Training at district levels of 3 target districts of Midi, Bani Hushaish, and Mukairas. Training at each district included 4 volunteer's trainers and 18 community volunteers with focus on community nutritional awareness and assessment to identify target children under 5 year
2. In order to assess the most vulnerable children in need of assistance, two teams one formed of men and the other one formed women roamed the target areas to identify children with MAM. The process was implemented in all three districts.
 - The Mukairas district field survey and assessment started on 15 September and continued for 3 days and initial results were collected. The survey covered the target three areas of Eriab, Alzon, and Burkan.
3. Distribution of porridge 1,000 children below the age of five years, was cancelled due to possible health risks related to contacted diseases from contaminated water.
4. Distribution of Plumpy (92 grams daily) was based on the assessment results and supported 1,000 children below the age of five years, providing 2,800 grams to each child on a monthly basis over three months in each the three mentioned governorates.
Moreover, MoU documents were signed by YRCS and WFP to provided supplementary plumpy for 1000 children under 5 years suffering from MAM for three months.

The update numbers of families and children received the food parcels and the plumpy

	First phase distribution for 2 months	Second phase distribution for one month	Distributed	Not distributed
Sana'a	666 family – food parcel/Plumpy	334 family – food parcel/Plumpy	1000	
Hajjah	652 family – food parcel/Plumpy	348 family – food parcel/Plumpy	1000	
Albaidah	666 family – food parcel/Plumpy		666	334 family – food parcel(due to security constraints)
Total			2666	334

5. 1,000 Households of the children below five years received on a monthly basis over three months in each the three mentioned governorates food parcels containing the below mention items .

Description of items	Quantity
Wheat, 50 kg sack	3'000
Rice, 10 kg sack	3'000
Sugar, 10 kg sack	3'000

Lentils, 2 kg packet	3'000
Cooking oil, 4 lit	3'000
Red Beans, can	30'000
Foul, can	30'000
Salt, 1 kg packet	3'000

6. Procurement of food baskets was implemented at HQ level as four offers were collected from well known food suppliers and a special committee consisting of YRCS and one IFRC member selected best offers giving justifications on the comparative bid analysis. The whole quantity of purchased food items consisted of the above mentioned table.
7. Distribution tools using the list of the beneficiaries targeted were prepared and used to facilitate the supply operations.
8. At the planning stage a mechanism was developed to ensure smooth distribution and a reliable monitoring, evaluation, and reporting system.
 - Three field coordinators were identified at the three target governorates branches in addition to one coordinator at the HQ to coordinate and be in charge of the DREF operation implementation and reporting. Field coordinators monitored the operation at district level and sent full report for each phase of distribution to HQ. The whole process was also fully documented by taking photos of most important steps including assessment of children and distribution at community level.
 - All these preparatory steps have assisted significantly in the monitoring and evaluation of process and finding suitable solutions to emerging and unexpected problems in consultation with stakeholders.
 - As part of the monitoring and upon the second and third phases of distribution, the YRCS assessment team members rechecked random samples of target children and recorded some improvement in over half of children who took the supplementary plumpy. Over the period of one to two months, the Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) measurement increased by 0,5 centimeter, reaching to 12.5 and more. According to the Ministry of Health in Yemen, the normal MAUC should be over 12 centimeter, if below that it is considered as MAM or SAM case.

Challenges:

The implementation process of the DREF operation faced delay for several reasons as summarized below:

- The security situation fluctuated during the implementation period especially the third phase of distribution
- Current conflicts in Albaidah which has interrupted the third phase of distribution.
- Shortage of NS human resources affected the implementation of DREF.

Emergency health / health awareness

Outcome: Health awareness is improved amongst approximately 15,000 or more expectant or lactating mothers attending YRCS health centres in three of the food insecure governorates (Sana'a , Al Baida, and Hajja) over the next three months

<p>Outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCH and health education is provided to 15,000 or more expectant and lactating mothers through outreach programmes linked to YRCS health centres 	<p>Activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Plan and develop appropriate health awareness training and materials 2. Carry out awareness campaigns/education sessions and share appropriate materials with new or expectant mothers attending YRCS health centres. 3. Recruit 60 volunteers - 20 per month in each of the three governorates – to work for seven days to hold education sessions
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Progress:

1. Health awareness training were conducted as mentioned above and materials were prepared

- Training of branch coordinators and volunteers trainers at HQ on community health and nutritional awareness and communication. Participants included one coordinator and 4 volunteers from each of the three branches reaching the total of 30 participants.
 - Training at district levels of 3 target districts of Midi, Bani Hushaish, and Mukairas. Training at each district included 4 volunteers' trainers and 18 community volunteers with focus on community nutritional awareness and assessment to identify target children under 5 years.
2. Carry out awareness campaigns/education sessions and share appropriate materials with new or expectant mothers attending YRCS health centres.
- Training on community health and nutrition awareness:
 - Awareness session and health messages were accompanied by the distribution of plummy and food baskets. those activities targeted pregnant women and lactating mothers and families with MAM children covering the three target districts of Mukairas, Midi, and Bani Hushaish.

A team has been formed by Yemen RC from the DM and CBHD units in addition to the Health/Nutrition delegate and the Federation Programme and Reporting Officer as well as a representative from the Ministry of Health, to work jointly on the health and nutrition awareness materials development

Under-five malnourished children and Pregnant and lactating women

Supplementary Plumpy donated by WFP for 1,000 children between 6 – 59 months and food packages purchased by YRCS for 1,000 households (the families of the malnourished children or lactating and pregnant women) have been distributed monthly for three months in Sana'a branch and Hajjah ,and two months in Baidha branches to be finished in the coming few days.

- A list of malnourished children under-five in each targeted area from the MoH has been verified.
- In each geographical area; one specific group has been selected based on the prevalence of malnutrition of under-five children.
- The total number of beneficiaries has been identified after local review and verification.
- The parents (mothers and or father) of those children were invited for a health education sessions on monthly bases.
- Food packages (enough for one month) has been given to the parents to feed their children and family members to supplement the ration provided by WFP for the targeted malnourished children.

Challenges:

- The security situation in the country and accessibility to the targeted communities.
- YRCS Internal financial and administrative constraints between the HQ and branches.

Assessment

Outcome: An assessment is carried out by YRCS, supported by the Federation and partners, to further define the possible scope and scale of the food insecurity interventions to be carried out by YRCS supported by a possible Federation appeal

<p>Outputs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An participatory assessment has been conducted to assess the food security situation and the possible role for YRCS supported by the wider Federation 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consolidate assessment team with NS and IFRC participants in closed consultation with the existing PNSs in Yemen 2. Train YRCS volunteers and staff on food security and livelihood assessment techniques 3. Conduct field visits applying food security assessment tools and methodologies 4. Data analysis and compilation of findings to inform the planning process for an appropriate intervention and possible appeal
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Progress:

1. The assessment team, composed of four members from the Federation were deployed during 9 – 15 June 2012, worked together with colleagues from Yemen RC.

2. Capacity building:

A five-days training on targeting and selecting the malnourished children has been completed on the 15th August 2012 for YRCS branches volunteers (28 volunteers) from the three targeted areas (Sana'a, Hajjah and Al Baidha), and they are the ones who will keep close monitoring to the implementation process and

report from the branches to the Yemen RC – HQ. And they will act as team leaders and trainers in the field during the projects implementation period. And it was facilitated by: YRCS staffs, 1 trainer from the MOH and IFRC delegate .YRCS has 90 trained volunteers in implementing any malnutrition programs for the future, with capacity in health awareness, monitoring and evaluation.

Following on from this ToT completed in August, the YRCS performed the following:

- Establish a community health volunteers teams in each branch
 - Conduct a training sessions for the community health volunteers for 4 days.
 - Number of volunteers have been trained was 30 in each branch.
3. Conduct field visits applying food security assessment tools and methodologies: The team looked the food insecurity needs and met with different stakeholders from Movement partners, UN agencies and donors' representatives in Yemen. The project team also visited the local community at Sana'a Governorate to assess and identify livelihood means and coping mechanism.
4. Data analysis and compilation of findings to inform the planning
- Special focus on the warehouse and logistical capacity of Yemen RC with a visit to Yemen RC main warehouse in Sana'a and physical inspection to the materials was conducted.
 - A Mission report was prepared with findings and recommendations for possible emergency appeal to address food insecurity in Yemen targeting three governorates for initial intervention.

Challenges:

- Due to the security limitation the team was able to visit only one community in Sana'a governorate and couldn't make it to other two targeted governorates.
- The food insecurity emergency appeal development got delayed due to the reasons highlighted earlier
- Any further delay on the DREF implementation will have a direct negative impact on the emergency appeal development.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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DREF history:

- This DREF was initially allocated on 8th June 2012 for CHF 276,447 three months to assist 16,000 beneficiaries.

- One DREF operation updates issued.



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1. DREF Operation financialreport [below](#)
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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.



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.
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MDRYE003 - Yemen - Food Insecurity

Appeal Launch Date: 07 jun 12

Appeal Timeframe: 07 jun 12 to 31 oct 12

Final Report
I. Funding

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2012/6-2012/12
Budget Timeframe	2012/6-2012/10
Appeal	MDRYE003
Budget	APPROVED

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL	Deferred Income
A. Budget	276,955					276,955	
B. Opening Balance	0					0	
Income							
<u>Other Income</u>							
<i>DREF Allocations</i>	276,955					276,955	
C4. Other Income	276,955					276,955	
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)	276,955					276,955	
D. Total Funding = B +C	276,955					276,955	
Coverage = D/A	100%					100%	

II. Movement of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL	Deferred Income
B. Opening Balance	0					0	
C. Income	276,955					276,955	
E. Expenditure	-269,208					-269,208	
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	7,747					7,747	

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III. Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		276,955					276,955	
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Food	201,000	198,013				198,013	2,987	
Total Relief items, Construction, Su	201,000	198,013				198,013	2,987	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Storage		5,855				5,855	-5,855	
Distribution & Monitoring		3,693				3,693	-3,693	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	10,000	392				392	9,608	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	10,000	9,940				9,940	60	
Personnel								
International Staff	1,375	658				658	717	
National Staff	4,500	4,347				4,347	153	
National Society Staff	4,500	260				260	4,240	
Volunteers	15,372	4,216				4,216	11,156	
Total Personnel	25,747	9,481				9,481	16,266	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	14,500	19,418				19,418	-4,918	
Total Workshops & Training	14,500	19,418				19,418	-4,918	
General Expenditure								
Travel	2,625	6,749				6,749	-4,124	
Communications		82				82	-82	
Financial Charges		2,689				2,689	-2,689	
Shared Office and Services Costs	6,180	6,405				6,405	-225	
Total General Expenditure	8,805	15,925				15,925	-7,120	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recov	16,903	16,431				16,431	473	
Total Indirect Costs	16,903	16,431				16,431	473	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	276,955	269,208				269,208	7,747	
VARIANCE (C - D)		7,747				7,747		