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Information bulletin

Yemen (Amran Governorate): Civil Unrest

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Date of issue: 9 July 2014

Date of disaster: 1st July 2014

Point of contact: Mazin Salloom, IFRC Yemen Country Representative,

Host National Society: Yemen Red Crescent Society (YRCS)

Number of people affected: 200,000 (including 70,000 IDPs)

The situation

After a breakdown of a ceasefire that was reached in June 23, 2014, the armed conflict renewed last week in Amran Governorate. The situation escalated on July 8, between the Islah and the Huthis Armed Groups, as the latter took complete control of Amran. This has led to the displacement of 70,000 men, women and children.

Amran has a strategic situation as it is located about 50 kilometres north of Sana'a and has a population of 200,000. The humanitarian situation is very dire as many people were forced to leave their homes while others were trapped inside being unable to flee the fighting to more secure areas. There are reports of more than 200 casualties (including civilian women and children), as well as direct targeting of

humanitarian assets and infrastructures like schools and hospitals. Access to the area is very difficult; the UN agencies could not intervene so far due the lack of clarity in the situation.

There is very limited information about the situation and needs, but based on various resources including the YRCS branch the following has been collected:

- There are 70,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) (i.e.10,000 families) inside and outside Amran governorate; numbers are growing by the day.
- The IDPs are dwelling in old and deserted houses, schools, and caves seeking shelter away from air strikes.
- The IDPs are mainly from seven districts in Amran governorate where the fighting took place (including Raida, Araf Aljabal, Al Ashmoor, Alsawda, AlSood, Kharif, and Khamir.) and moved to neighbouring governorates of Hajjah, Mahweet, and Sana'a.



Map showing the affected area in Yemen

- There are also 50 marginalized families (350 people) who fled the fighting in Amran and came to Sana's and established tents in the Tahrir Square.
- The branches were asked by the YRCS Head Quarters (HQ) to conduct a Rapid Needs Assessment and provide details on the current humanitarian situation.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The YRCS HQ and Amran branch are accepted by both fighting parties as it has a clear neutral stance and a humanitarian mission to perform. This facilitated the immediate response to retrieve dead bodies from taken over spots including government complex, camps and hospital.

- According to presidential decree, the YRCS was granted a role in the Damage Assessment Committee regarding Amran conflict.
- The YRCS has initiated operation rooms at the HQ supported by the Federation and in the branch for close coordination and to follow on the situation and new developments.



YRCS Volunteers at work, source: IFRC - Ibrahim Malla,

- The HQ warehouse has a logistic contingency stock for 100 families including mattresses, blankets, kitchen sets, Jerry cans, First Aid kits, and 500 tents.
- The branch has been trained on dead body management and provided with body bags in cooperation with ICRC. Despite the need for First Aid there is no any agency providing this service due to security situation.
- IFRC is supporting the YRCS to assess the IDPs situation in neighbour governorates to Amran and will accordingly develop its operation plan to support the needs of the most vulnerable men, women and children.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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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.