



YEMEN: FLOODS

**Final Report for
DREF Bulletin
no. MDRYE001
4 April 2007**

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in 185 countries.

In Brief

Period covered by this Final Report: 20 February 2006 to 31 January 2007.

History of this Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)-funded operation:

- CHF 63,900 (USD 49,708 or EUR 40,985) allocated from the Federations DREF on 24 February 2006 to respond to the needs of this operation, or to replenish disaster preparedness stocks distributed to the affected population.
- This operation was expected to be implemented in four months, and completed by 30 June 2006. In line with Federation reporting standards, the DREF Bulletin Final Report (narrative and financial) was due 90 days after the end of the operation (by 30 September, 2006). The activities carried out with the funds from DREF were finalised within the timeframe of the operation (by the end of June 2006). Nevertheless, the report covers a period until the end of January 2007, when a persistent problem between the NS and the contractor regarding the construction of bathrooms at the camp was solved.

The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

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All International Federation 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 is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Background and Summary



The camp constructed in the outskirts of Ma'bar city became home for the vulnerable people who were not able to remain in their houses due to the destruction caused by the floods in February 2006

till a camp had been constructed in the outskirts of Ma'bar. About 90 more people took refuge in another temporary shelter gathering place near a local market.

Dhamar floods

A major flash flooding occurred on Monday, 20 February 2006, due to heavy rains that affected Ma'bar city, Dhamar governorate (100 Km from south Sana'a). Three people – two men and one child – were confirmed dead. According to the assessment report prepared by the Yemen Red Crescent Society (YRCS) Dhamar branch assessment team, the floods caused destruction of more than 13 houses and partial damage of more than 47 homes, while 772 suffered minor wall cracks. In addition, about 53 goats/sheep and more than 2,000 chicken were lost. Vast area of fertile farming land was submerged in flood water.

YRCS staff and volunteers helped Civil Defence personnel to evacuate 265 persons trapped in villages in Ma'bar region, which has a population of around 24,700 people. Some 502 people, mostly from the marginalized groups, were temporarily housed in a government school

Lahj Floods

Another floods disaster followed just a few days after the first one. Starting at an early hour of Saturday morning, 25 February, torrential rains continued for over six hours in Lahj Governorate in the southern part of Yemen. The disaster was remarkably evident in the two districts of Alhotah and Tuban. Alhootah city, the capital of Lahj governorate, located about 30 kilometres northwest of Aden city, was the most affected area. Wahidah, Masjid Aldolah, and Alduba, three poor residential neighborhoods, witnessed greater devastation than other places in the city. That was attributed to poverty, lack of proper infrastructure and housing planning. Most houses are weakly constructed on lower lands and in some cases right on the streams of the flowing rain waters. The situation was worsened by limitation of the old drainage system that was built during the Sultanate eras. The drainpipes capacity could not cope with the amount of waters in the submerged streets resulting in slow collapse of houses, mainly built in mud. Evacuees had been temporarily accommodated in two nearby schools, and then moved to a more sustainable camp.

The Proposal

The first preliminary report on Dhamar floods was prepared by the assessment team and Federation Office and sent on to the Regional Office in Amman where a DREF funding request was issued and sent to Geneva. The urgent DREF Request which contained all relevant objectives and needs of the operation was used in place of a formal programme proposal.

Coordination

The assistance from the local authorities was good, both during the field assessment and the distribution of the relief items. There has also been good coordination and cooperation with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF),

World Food Programme (WFP), Oxfam, Islamic Relief and other national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Generally the National Society, with its active volunteers, has been the distributing party during both operations. YRCS has effectively cooperated with relevant government and other international organizations in order to find support for the victims as fast as possible. The United Arab Emirates Red Crescent provided relief items consisting of 453 mattresses, 530 blankets, and food items. Care International and Islamic Relief have also contributed to the relief efforts by donating necessary food and non-food items.

Analysis of the operation – achievements and impact

The YRCS was very active in the entire operation. At an early stage the National Society conducted field assessments to both Dhamar and Lahj, with a report to Headquarters. The distribution of the shelter, relief and food items was done by the YRCS staff and volunteers. About 20 volunteers were involved in Dhamar operation, including members from Sana'a and Al Baidah.

In Lahj, the YRCS was the first organization to intervene and provide help. It has been well appreciated by the local people and authorities, which resulted in more cooperation with the Government departments. Seven volunteers worked side by side with 13 volunteers from Aden branch, in order to get the work done.

Objectives

Objective 1: To assist 200 families affected by floods disaster in Ma'bar city and nearby areas in Dhamar Governorate with needed shelter, relief services of health and food items for 15 days according to standards.

Objective 2: To refurbish the emergency relief stock in warehouse and raise the capacity level of the NS to provide relief items for 1,500 persons in time of disasters.

Dhamar Activities

The YRCS showed quick and good initial response by sending an assessment team the night of the disaster and dispatching the first consignment of relief items the day after. The Headquarters released the available shelter items from the central warehouse in Sana'a which included 15 tents and 200 blankets. Volunteers from the affected governorate of Dhamar and Sana'a branch had played an important role in the field assessment. They were heavily involved in planning and establishing temporary shelters followed by distribution of relief items, food items, medications, and performing other field activities. Field visits and activities continued for the next days to evaluate the situation, distribute newly received items, and manage the daily camp problems.

Finding a new place to establish a more durable camp was challenging. The National Society leadership at the branch and Headquarters levels persistently followed up the case with the local authority and concerned government department and managed to allocate a reasonable plot of land one kilometer away from Ma'bar city. The place was suitably allocated on a high area of 1,000 square meters with good access to the city and water source from a nearby government water project. Tribal allegations over the land hindered the immediate implementation of the camp which started two weeks later. By mid March, about 82 tents were installed and people were moved from the two temporary shelters to the new camp in an organized way; giving priority to the most vulnerable cases. By January 2007, the total number of tents reached 89.

The major stumbling block was the construction of bathrooms. This phase of the project, costing 10,000 US Dollars, was co-funded by the Federation in order to build ten bathrooms. Dhamar branch was requested to collect bids and find an appropriate local contractor to carry out the project. Since no such contractor was found locally, the Federation Office had to invite bids at the Headquarters level. Three bids were collected, analyzed, and the most suitable one was selected by a committee. A contract was signed between the three parties - YRCS, Federation, and the contractor. Accordingly, works started in the beginning of May 2006 and was supposed to be finished by the end of the same month. Continuous differences over specifications between the contractor and the branch management led to delay in the completion and hand over of bathrooms to beneficiaries. Due payment to the contractor was held by the National Society till January 2007, when another agreement was reached to finalize the remaining minor

works. The agreement specified paying the contractor the last payment of 231000 YR on condition that the construction is finalized and the drainage pit is dug.



Concrete water tanks serve as a link between floods victims and better water supply

It is estimated that the vulnerable people will continue for a period of time in this camp, since they had been living in a similar condition just before the disaster. They are mainly from the most marginalized category of Yemeni society who lives in miserable conditions. The camp will see some further improvement as the water supply network is connected to a reliable safe water source. Three more tents have been installed lately to serve as a school in cooperation with the Ministry of Education who provided desks, chairs, and teachers.

Lahj activities

YRCS was the first humanitarian and relief organization to show timely response to meet the immediate needs of the evacuees. The operation started with the Aden branch sending a field assessment team to evaluate the disaster, damage and needs. According to the report some 128 houses were destroyed, leaving the same

number of families homeless, and about 200 houses affected at different levels of damage. Although the flood caused huge loss of property, no casualties were reported; only a case of minor injury. A list of needs was identified including 140 tents, 740 mattresses, 1,480 blankets, 128 kitchen sets, and 128 of other related items. YRCS staff and volunteers, along with the disaster management coordinator, made frequent trips to Lahj in order to extend assistance to move the evacuees from the school temporary shelter to a more sustainable camp.

Close coordination between the disaster management departments at Headquarters, Taiz Branch and Aden Branch resulted in a quicker response in comparison with previous disaster interventions. By the afternoon of 1 March 2006, the first consignment of relief items reached Lahj. Taiz branch, being the nearest capable branch, extended all possible assistance and expertise through a team consisting of seven volunteers headed by the Taiz branch president. Along with the Aden team, a camp had been established on a safe piece of land that was made available by the Governor's assistance.

The actual camp construction works were finalized within the third week of March and beneficiaries started moving, making the total of 43 families within the first few days. Most of the affected people found other shelters with their relatives and alternative houses. With support from local authorities, the camp was well equipped with bathrooms for men and women. Electricity came shortly afterwards to allow using electrical appliances, especially fans and lights. Medical care was also provided by YRCS branches and then the role was handed over.

The camp did not last for long as most people were motivated to look for better alternatives through different means. The YRCS continued for two weeks and then handed over the camp to the Local Council. Items extended by Taiz branch were compensated at a later stage.

Distribution

The relief items that had been procured by the Headquarters in Sana'a reached Dhamar the same week and were delivered to the camp administration. The items which included 610 blankets, 405 sponge mattresses, and 100 kitchen sets were distributed to the beneficiaries according to the plans; giving priority to the people most in need at the camp.

On the other hand, the quick response of Taiz branch made a good effect in alleviating the suffering of people affected by the floods in Lahj. Taiz branch intervened, being the nearest capable branch with good logistics stock in

its warehouses. Aden branch also provided contribution within its capacity. It deployed its volunteers and health workers to organize the camp and provide relief health care. At a later stage the Headquarters compensated Taiz branch by sending relief items to fill the gap in the branch's logistics stock and support its preparedness for similar future interventions. The items included 40 tents, 33 blankets, 33 mattresses, 40 stoves, and 40 kitchen sets.

Conclusion

The two simultaneous operations in Dhamar and Lahj were of different nature as regards to climate, topography, target groups, and cooperation from local authorities and local communities. In both cases the National Society showed an improving level of disaster response in order to meet the direct needs and alleviate the suffering of vulnerable people. The recently developed national intervention team was fully deployed and demonstrated its capacity to manage such minor disasters. The presence of YRCS was eminent in both locations through field operations and mass media which enhanced the visibility and mandate of the National Society as an auxiliary national relief society.

[Final financial report below; click here to return to the title page or contact information](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRYE001 - YEMEN - FLOODS

Final Financial Report

| Selected Parameters | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Reporting Timeframe | 2006/02-2006/06 |
| Budget Timeframe | 2006/02-2006/06 |
| Appeal | MDRYE001 |
| Budget | APPEAL |

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

| | Health & Care | Disaster Management | Humanitarian Values | Organisational Development | Coordination & Implementation | TOTAL |
|--|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------|
| A. Budget | | 63,900 | | | | 63,900 |
| B. Opening Balance | | 0 | | | | 0 |
| Income | | | | | | |
| <u>Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)</u> | | | | | | |
| <i>DREF</i> | | 63,897 | | | | 63,897 |
| <i>C3. Reallocations (within appeal or</i> | | 63,897 | | | | 63,897 |
| C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6) | | 63,897 | | | | 63,897 |
| D. Total Funding = B + C | | 63,897 | | | | 63,897 |

II. Balance of Funds

| | Health & Care | Disaster Management | Humanitarian Values | Organisational Development | Coordination & Implementation | TOTAL |
|---|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------|
| B. Opening Balance | | 0 | | | | 0 |
| C. Income | | 63,897 | | | | 63,897 |
| E. Expenditure | | -63,897 | | | | -63,897 |
| F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E) | | 0 | | | | 0 |

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

| Account Groups | Budget | Expenditure | | | | | TOTAL | Variance |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|----------|
| | | Health & Care | Disaster Management | Humanitarian Values | Organisational Development | Coordination & Implementation | | |
| A | | B | | | | | A - B | |
| BUDGET (C) | | 63,900 | | | | | 63,900 | |
| Supplies | | | | | | | | |
| Shelter - Relief | 20,476 | | 20,476 | | | 20,476 | 1 | |
| Clothing & textiles | 31,542 | | 31,542 | | | 31,542 | 0 | |
| Utensils & Tools | 3,699 | | 3,699 | | | 3,699 | 0 | |
| Total Supplies | 55,717 | | 55,716 | | | 55,716 | 1 | |
| Transport & Storage | | | | | | | | |
| Storage | | | 51 | | | 51 | -51 | |
| Transport & Vehicle Costs | 67 | | 206 | | | 206 | -139 | |
| Total Transport & Storage | 67 | | 257 | | | 257 | -190 | |
| Personnel Expenditures | | | | | | | | |
| National Staff | 3,905 | | | | | | 3,905 | |
| National Society Staff | | | 3,661 | | | 3,661 | -3,661 | |
| Total Personnel Expenditures | 3,905 | | 3,661 | | | 3,661 | 245 | |
| General Expenditure | | | | | | | | |
| Information & Public Relation | 57 | | 57 | | | 57 | -0 | |
| Office Costs | | | 45 | | | 45 | -45 | |
| Financial Charges | | | 8 | | | 8 | -8 | |
| Total General Expenditure | 57 | | 110 | | | 110 | -53 | |
| Program Support | | | | | | | | |
| Program Support | 4,154 | | 4,153 | | | 4,153 | 0 | |
| Total Program Support | 4,154 | | 4,153 | | | 4,153 | 0 | |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D) | 63,900 | | 63,897 | | | 63,897 | 3 | |
| VARIANCE (C - D) | | | 3 | | | 3 | | |