

# Mid-Year report



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## YEMEN

Appeal No. MAAYE001

15 August 2011

This report covers the period 01/01/2011 to 30/06/2011.



Distribution of blankets and kitchen sets by Aden branch to internally displaced people who came Aden from Abyan governorate. Photo:YRCS/IFRC

## In brief

**Programme outcome:** The outcomes of programmes implemented during the reporting period are based on the Yemen Red Crescent Society's Strategy 2007-2011 and in line with the Federation Strategy 2020. The outcome mainly focuses on building the capacity of NS and better serving the most vulnerable.

**Programme(s) summary:** The year 2011 started out smoothly with programmes implementation in the three core areas of disaster management, health and care, and organizational and capacity building. But the situation soon changed due to the escalation of political and security situation with increasing armed conflicts. More emphasis was placed on disaster management to ensure adequate preparedness and response at branch and HQ level through building capacity of volunteers and staff and consolidating logistic and warehousing capacities.

The organizational development/capacity building programme worked towards enhancing the capacity of the NS's volunteers and staff through restructuring and recruitment of qualified new staff members at HQ and implementing the volunteer health insurance. The health and care programme continued its focus on improving the health services provision to target communities including first aid, community based health development projects, hygiene promotion and water and sanitation. A new health coordinator was appointed at HQ level to fill the position and ensure better planning, implementation, and coordination of all health related activities.

### **Financial situation:**

The total 2011 budget is CHF 784,943 of which CHF 430,234 (62%) was covered during the reporting period (including opening balance). Overall expenditure during the reporting period was CHF 194,676 (28%) of the budget. Overall expenditure during the reporting period was 28 percent compared with the budget, and about 62 percent compared with the total funding available during the reporting period including the balance brought forward from 2010.

Due to the civil unrest and political crisis in the country, funds were not received until mid of April and June. In light of the progress during the first half of the year, the budget for 2011 has been revised downwards (from CHF 784, 943 to CHF 690,187 )

[Click here to go directly to the financial report.](#)

**No. of people we have reached:** About 60,000 beneficiaries have benefitted from the Secretariat-supported activities during the reporting period with about the same number expected to be reached during the second half of 2011.

The disaster management activities were implemented through the NS network of branches in 15 governorates, including disaster risk reduction, preparedness and response, reaching to approximately 18,000 in all target governorates and districts. Beneficiaries from the services of the emergency operation due to the ongoing civil unrest reached about 25,000. The health and care services were delivered to communities through Yemen Red Crescent volunteers and staff at NS health centres in the various branches reaching to more than 10,000.

**Our partners:** To achieve its objective through increased partnership, the YRCS continued to work closely with Movement partners including the International federation, ICRC, Partner National Societies – the Danish RC, Norwegian RC, Swedish RC, French RC, German RC, and the UAE RC. The NS also worked with other partners including Oxfam, IOM, Islamic Relief, UNHCR, UNDP, UNICEF, OCHA, WFP, and WHO. Yemen Red Crescent extended its partnership to include local government departments such as Ministry of Public Health and Population, Ministry of Water and Environment, Civil Defence, Ministry of Agriculture, and Geological Survey Authority.

## Context

Yemen has experienced considerable changes due to the on going political crisis that started early this year. By early February, after regimes collapse in Egypt and Tunisia, Yemen's youth took to the streets in persistent demonstrations against the current government time. Major anti-regime sit-in areas have been established in public squares and streets in main cities including Sana'a, Taiz, Aden, Hajjah, and Ibb. There has been some fatal clashes between the youth on one side and the security forces and regime supporters on the other. Hundreds of youth protesters were killed and thousands injured during demonstrations. Some prominent figures and army commanders allied with the youth and their cause which made a huge change in the nature of the movement. What was known and started as a peaceful revolution changed into a political crisis. Sana's city witnessed fierce battles and heavy weapon fire exchange between the Leader of Hashid tribe and the government forces resulting in death of hundreds and fleeing of residents to other governorates. That was followed by assassination attempt of the Presidents and other senior official at the beginning of June. In the meantime, people all over the country are suffering due to acute shortage of fuel, electricity and water which affect the whole economical cycle of national income and welfare services. Armed confrontation has also erupted in the south where armed men took over the city of Zinjibar causing thousands of IDPs to flee to Aden and Lahj governorates.

The deteriorating security situation and related difficulties have greatly affected the operations of the Yemen Red Crescent Society (YRCS) and its partners at HQ and branches. All delegates were evacuated from Yemen and continued their duties from MENA Zone Office in Amman, in close coordination with YRCS and Federation local staff.

## Progress towards outcomes

### Disaster Management

#### Outcomes

- National Society capacity to plan, implement, monitor and report on disaster preparedness, response and recovery based on an increasing shift from reactive to preventive approaches is improved. Contribution to the reduction of deaths, based on decentralized capacity and rapid exchange of information is increased
- Capacities to plan and manage disaster risk reduction activities at the local level is increased

#### Achievements

At the beginning of the year, the Disaster Management (DM) Department at HQ started to improve coordination, planning, strategy, emergency response, intervention guidelines, and manuals. In January, the

DM collected needed information and held meetings to draft the National Contingency Plan 2011 in close consultation with branches and partners including OCHA, Unicef, and General Rural Water Authority.

. The renovation of the central warehouses in Sanaa has shown some progress . A construction agency has been contracted to perform the initial maintenance works to renovate the part affected by fire incident. The process included cleaning the remaining debris, cementing walls, repairing windows and painting at a later stage. Future steps will include warehouses at branch level including Taiz, Aden, and Dhamar.

The DM Department is strengthening its cooperation with other partners including the International Organization of Migration (IOM). In March, the DM performed a field assessment to define the humanitarian needs for reception centre in Bab Al Mandab – The Taiz branch actively contributes in provision of assistance to refugees & mixed migrants in cooperation with IOM. The aim is to improve the situation of the people regarding shelter, water& sanitation, and medical services.

Coordination with partners involved joint field assessment with ICRC in Aden and Lahj to identify urgent humanitarian needs due to the ongoing demonstration and civil unrest. The assessment focused on capacities and vulnerabilities of local communities and local branches. .

Cooperation agreement signed between YRC and IOM. IOM will provide support to YRCS Hajja Branch to build up the capacity of Harad YRCS sub-branch to provide shelter and health and care for migrants.

The DM group participated in the review of the Mixed Migration Task Force (MMTF) on 16 March 2011 which approved the establishment of the regional MMTF Secretariat

The DM group also attended annual meetings with other stakeholders including UN Agencies and other NGOs to formulate the Humanitarian Strategy for 2011, focusing on improving the humanitarian situation in Water and Sanitation Hygiene (WASH), health, food security and protection issues.

During the second half of the reporting period the DM group worked mostly with the contingency plan and emergency appeal to meet urgent needs due to the deteriorating political situation in the country. The DM group contributed to an effective Contingency Plan and following up on its updating and implementation through:

- Continuous contact with YRC Branches
- Coordination with movement partners through regular meetings of Movement Operation committee ( MOC ) to update the contingency plan
- YRC HQ , with support from IFRC, provided.
- Within its emergency response YRC HQ provided Aden Branch with 2100 blankets and 1000 kitchen sets . It also provided Taiz Branch with none food items and DP stock including 100 tents, 600 blankets, 600 mattresses, and 100 kitchen sets. The German RC provided support for transportation of NFIs to Taiz .
- Following up the situation in Yemen caused by the unrest and violence at all levels and proper intervention support in First Aid by GRC to Taiz and Seyoun / Hadramout.
- Participated in preparing the MENA and Yemen Emergency Appeal 2011:
  - Developing and agreeing on a sub-national approach towards a strategic and multi-sectoral contingency plan.
  - Mapping existing resources and capacities of the national society, Federation and other key stakeholders in Yemen by using WPNS/WFNS and other tools.
  - Conducting rapid trainings/workshops for staff and volunteers on how to develop a contingency plan in cooperation with ICRC.
  - Developing practical contingency plan taking into account the evolving risk patterns in the country, various scenarios, capacity and mandate of the National Society

The DM Department participated at the Global DRR Forum which was held in Damascus Syria 29-31 March 2011. YRCS representative participated actively in six workshops, plenary session, forum market place with 750 booklets and brochures on climate change awareness. The outcomes of the forum included:

- Increasing community safety and resilience through effective disaster risk reduction including climate change adaptation and food security programme
- Enhancing DRR\CCA strategies and involving IFRC Strategy 2020
- Improvement of accountability, monitoring, and planning in community safety and resilience

A Consultative Meeting for Disaster Management Programme was organized at YRCS HQ during the period 25-26 April 2011. About 32 participants attended the meeting including presidents, and secretaries general of all branches, Federation, and ICRC. The meeting was facilitated by a DM expert from the Syrian RC, and MENA DM Coordinator. Several relevant topics were addressed during the meeting including:

- Organizational structure of the DM Department at the HQ:
- Roles and responsibilities
- Role of YRCS Secretary General
- Role of the DM Supervisor and Field Coordinator at the HQ
- Functions/ tasks of the DM Supervisor at HQ
- Functions/ tasks of the Field Coordinator at HQ
- Tasks of DM Coordinators at branch level
- Tasks of DM Supervisor at branch level
- List of Branch DM Supervisors
- List of Branch DM Coordinators
- Mechanism of reporting
- Field survey sample
- DM programme report sample
- Branches Capacity (Human resources, logistics. challenges, and needs)

The DM Department has been following on the output\ Recomendadtions of Global DRR forum which was held in Geneva in May 2011. YRCS DM Supervisor who has been appointed as focal point to follow up on related issues /recommendations, has also provided plan to implement micro projects at community level in the coastal areas of Hajjah and Hodeidah.

### Constraints or Challenges

- The DM department at HQ faced difficulties in ensuring the required transportation support to facilitate frequent field visits to disaster prone areas located in remote and tough terrains.
- Like other programmes, the current civil unrest has negatively affected the smooth operation of the DM programmes.

## Health and Care

### Outcome

- Better personal and community health, public health system, and reduced exposure and vulnerability to natural and human-made hazards

### Achievements

At the beginning of January, the new Health and Care the Coordinator started his duties. He got introduced to YRCS and its partners including familiarization g with YRCS guidelines and strategies. As the key figure in the Health Department, the new Health Coordinator started a comprehensive field visit which will included all branches. The process consisted of several stages:

- Developing basic questionnaires to sort out the reasons for the gap between YRCS and its branches.
- The visit covered the branches of Amran, Dhamar, Ibb, Taiz, Aden, Abyan and Dhalee, Socotra, Seyoun, Hodeida, Almahweet, Hajjah and Sa'dah.
- Establishment of archive system
- Continuing the last phase of fibreglass water reservoir and water filter distribution in Bait Alfaqih
- Developing plan of action for the first quarter of the year 2011 and some administrative forms and suggestions to regulate meetings.
- In February, an emergency support visit to Aden and Aldhale branches was organized to discuss the emergency plan of action for the emergency situation in cooperation with ICRC. During the visit the health team also met with the Director General of Health and Governor of Lahj Govenorate to prepare for establishment of new YRCS branch in Lahj.

- Meetings and coordination:
  - o Meeting with partners: Discussed the need for emergency plan of action for Sana'a, and Aden at the first stage
  - o Meeting with MOPH&P,WHO, MSFF, MSFS, ICRC
  - o Cooperation with MOPH&P was established regarding the ER to help victims during emergencies.
- During March, a logical framework was successfully developed for the four CBHD programs. After meeting with steering committees in the four CBHD target YRCS branches, districts were successfully selected.
- Also the Emergency Response PoA was successfully developed for Hadramout (Mukalla and Seyoun) and Taiz supported by the GRC, and for Sana'a and Aden supported by ICRC.
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- Reviewing of files communicating with Audit company in preparation for auditing

The Health and Care Department has focused on improving the skills of YRCS at branch level. It achieved the following activities based on its Quarterly Activities Planning Sheets:

Volunteers skills and experiences scaled up through training of Sana'a branch volunteers on first aid, safer access, and communication (March 2011).

A training workshop on Psychological Support (PSP) was organized at the HQ and facilitated by a regional trainer from the Palestinian Red Crescent during the period 10-14 April.

Three PSP training workshops were organized at branch level, with close cooperation of the branches in the concerned governorates. The training aimed at building the capacity of NS and respond to the current situation through better skills in PSP. It was decided to train four volunteers (including female and male volunteers) from each branch of YRCS to participate in the training and act as focal points to provide PSP in their areas when needed.

- The first workshop was organized in Dhamar during 24 – 26 April, with 19 participants from Dhamar, Aldhale, Shabwah, Abyan, and Hadramaut .
- The second workshop was organized in Sana'a with 24 participants
- The third workshop was organized in Hajjah with 24 participants (April, 2011)

Training on First Aid, Communication and safer access was organized with participation of volunteers from five governorates/branches including 55 from Aden, 80 from Taiz, 60 from Sayoun, and 40 from Hodidah and Ibb.

In May, a training workshop was organized on FA, Communication, and sever access for Hodidah and Ibb branches with participation of 40 volunteers. That was followed by training on PSP for Hajjah with participation of 24 volunteers.

In addition, two training workshops were conducted in Taiz in June 2011. The first was on FA with participation of 38 volunteers, 14 were female volunteers while the second was on PSP with participation of 20 volunteers of whom 18 were female volunteers .

Under the Operation Alliance, the the community health development programme (CBHDP) has continued its work by redesigning its plan and selecting new target sub-branches. The new sub-branches include Al Zuhrah in Hodediah governorate, Tarim in Hadramaut governorate, Reef al Mahweet in Mahweet governorate, and Al Odain, in Ibb governorate. A Plan of action has been formulated based on information collected from the field and close collaboration with Movement partners and other NGOs and government partners. In June, four Project Officers have been selected at governorate levels according to the recruitment standards. That was followed by a process of selecting volunteers, 10 from each branch, in cooperation with OD Department.

## Constraints or Challenges

- Shortage of fuel hampered the field visit to most of the branches

- Like other programmes the current civil unrest and security situation slowed down smooth implementation of all components of health programme

## Organizational Development

### Outcomes

- Overall support is provided including technical support to YRCS to improve its organizational development including overall performance and accountability
- More sustainable organization with enhanced leadership skills and competencies as well as internal and external cooperation and coordination will be developed.
- The awareness and capacity of the National Society towards strengthening resource development including resources from within the country coupled with up to date and reliable financial management is improved
- A capacity for service delivery based on a growing culture of volunteering is developed.

### Achievements

A new capacity building officer (CBO) started working with the OD department from 15<sup>th</sup> February 2011, contributing a lot to the NS capacity building plans and follow up implementation of related activities at HQ and branch levels.

The newly appointed Capacity Building Officer participated in a training workshop in Cairo during June. The training focused on necessary skills and knowledge on better planning and management which will assist the participant to carry out future activities related to project planning, and other management trainings for YRCS staff and volunteers.

The CBO and Volunteers Officer carried out field visits to the branches of Ibb, Hodeida, Mahweet, and Seyoun mapping and following up on volunteer's database with emphasis on the components of OD and importance of volunteering in NS.

A collaborative plan on visibility and dissemination was formulated in cooperation with the Information and Dissemination Department and ICRC. The project will be implemented in seven branches and HQ.

A workshop on YRCS Statutes, Volunteer Policy, Volunteer Guidelines, PPP, Finance, Reporting and Database for volunteer was organized during the period 13-20 February 2011, at YRCS HQ. Fifteen participants benefitted from the training including five coordinators from Sana'a, Aden, Seyoun, Al-Mahweet, and Dhamar, and 10 regional trainers from Sana'a, Ibb, Sayoun, Hajjah, Dhamar, Taiz, and Aden.

In February, the OD department signed the contract of five coordinators in preparation for development and implementation of micro projects. ID cards were issued for coordinators & regional trainers along with lists of job descriptions for each category.

A training workshop on the micro projects (local funds) was organized on 24<sup>th</sup> of April at YRCS HQ. The training included coordinators and management from local branches of Taiz, Dhamar, Hajjah, Seyoun, Aden, Abyan, Sana'a, Hodeida, Rymah, Mahweet, Dala'a and Ibb. Agreement was signed between the YRCS HQ and each branch about the procedures. The required fund was transferred to concerned branches to enable them initiate first steps related to local projects

A new Volunteer Development Officer was appointed at the OD Department, at YRCS HQ. The new officer will be responsible for all issue related to volunteering development and follow up activities at branch and HQ level. The Department also worked the development of accident insurance for all YRCS volunteers. The new insurance system is supported by the Federation to cover local medication costs for volunteers who might get injured in incidents related to operations in the field. All concerned branches have filled out their registration forms with the list of volunteers deployed the field making the total of 2070 volunteers so far. Local health institutes were contacted to get best offer and services with agreements to be signed soon. In March, the OD department made the necessary coordination with hospitals in Sana'a regarding accident insurance for

volunteers. The OD staff also visited Taiz and Aden to discuss and coordinate with three hospitals at branch level to get similar insurance for volunteers.

As the civil unrest started in the country early this year, the OD department in close consultation with YRCS branches and HQ developed contingency plans for all branches. The aim was to identify the priorities and urgent needs of each branch to cope with the current emergency situations

During March and April, the OD Department was fully engaged in preparation, printing out, and publishing a series of printing packages including posters, YRCS statutes, and guidelines for volunteers, local fund guidelines, and ID cards for coordinators and regional trainers. Most of the printed materials were distributed to branches according to plan. .

The web page of Yemen Red crescent on the internet has been update on a monthly basis, as a webmaster was recruited to inter relevant data and images and follow up on getting these materials from concerned departments and branches. A new site with a different look will be established in consultation with websites hosting and development companies. Also, a page on Face book was created to provide a cyber space where all those affiliated with the NS to exchange views and get the latest development about the NS and its branches.

## Constraints or Challenges

- The Organizational Department has planned for several activities to be implemented during the reporting period including micro projects (local fund) activities at branches, volunteer statistics, field visits, branch mapping, PPP training workshops, membership training, etc. But due to the current crisis it was not possible to fully implement all planned activities.

## Working in partnership

Due to the current civil unrest and security situation most the delegates were evacuated from the field. Despite these difficulties, efforts are being made to continue the services, as the local staff and volunteers are fully engaged in the delivery of the required services. At the beginning of the year, a coordination committee consisting of Movement partners was formed to coordinate interventions and cooperation to assist YRCS responding to emergency situation in the country. Regular Movement coordination meetings continued through out the reporting period on a weekly basis to ensure up-to-date information exchange and coordinated responses. As recommended by the MOC meeting, an assistance disaster management working group was formed. The group meets two times a week. The ToR of this working group includes:

- Follow up and monitor the operational activities in the field
- provide technical support to YRCS branches to implement emergency response programmes
- mobilise resources, and
- coordinate the information-sharing within Movement partners

## Contributing to longer-term impact

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- Most of the DRR and community based health activities are based on greater integration and inclusion gender, equity, diversity and community empowerment. The fore front role the YRCS plays in assisting the victims of the on-going violence also represents a case of successful endeavour carried out in difficult circumstances. The cumulative experience will go a long way in raising the opportunity for the YRCS to enhance its overall capacities to continue to contribute more effectively the process of risk reduction and the management of disasters and community development efforts in a variety of ways

## Looking ahead

Depending on the how fast the security situation improves, it is planned to enhance service delivery and NS capacity building during the second half of 2011. The return of all delegates to the field and appointment/deployment of a new Country Representative of the Federation are all vital to the smooth continuation and consolidation of the efforts to achieve the desired goals.

## How we work

*All 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.*

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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