

YEMEN

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

CHF 200,000

Programme no 01.54/99

The Context

Yemen has experienced a range of natural disasters - floods, earthquakes and landslides - in recent years and, in the aftermath of the Gulf war, had to reintegrate approximately one million Yemenis living abroad who had to return to their native land. This massive influx added to the economic difficulties that followed on the merging in 1991 of North Yemen and South Yemen as the Republic of Yemen.

The Operation

The Federation provided support to the Yemen Red Crescent Society (YRCS) in its response to the country's various emergencies. Recently, at the National Society's request, it undertook an assessment mission to map its capacities and assist its leadership in defining the Society's future role in the national programme for disaster preparedness and management, which is being established by the government of the Republic of Yemen with UNDP support.

Objectives of the Operation

- To establish a YRCS Disaster Preparedness Plan that will:
 - Identify disaster-prone areas and vulnerable populations;
 - Improve the preparedness of the YRCS to cope with the effects of natural disasters.

Plan of Action

Once the assessment of the National Society's capacity has been completed, the Society will

- establish new branches in three high risk Governorates of Al Jouf, Mareb and Shaboh;
- upgrade response capacity through advanced training and training in specific fields (relief, first aid, search and rescue);
- integrate disaster preparedness and first aid training;

- establish non-food preparedness stocks (blankets, cooking utensils, tents etc.).

Capacity

- The Operating National Society

The YRCS has branches in the Governorates of Sana'a, Aden, Taiz, Hodeidah, Hazza, Hadramout, Mahweet, Ibb, Damar, Abyan and Lahej. It has some 3,700 volunteers trained in disaster response. Its fleet of 40 vehicles includes trucks, tankers and pick-ups.

- The Federation

The Federation will contribute to enhancing training design and the implementation of training modules. With the support of Participating National Societies, it will contribute to building up a buffer stock of non-food items.

Co-operation

All participants will interact within the framework of the projected National Disaster Authority. The YRCS will confirm its lead position in training resources and NGO co-ordination. This appeal programme has been discussed and agreed upon with the Government of Yemen and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).