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## Information bulletin

### Yemen: Complex Emergency

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

#### Information bulletin no. 1

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Country Representative, IFRC

Host National Society: Yemen Red Crescent Society (YRCS)

*This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation. The Yemen Red Crescent will, however, accept direct assistance to provide support to the affected population.*

## The situation

Conflict has escalated significantly in Yemen since 23 March, affecting 11 of Yemen's 22 Governorates, between government and opposition. On 26 March, a Saudi-led-coalition launched air attacks on opposition targets in Sanaa, Aden, Taizz and Sa'ada turning the nature of the conflict to an international one.

The airstrikes covered other governorates and main cities in the country. In relation with the airstrike, ground armed conflict is taking place in the south between oppositions and the Popular Committees, loyal to current President Hadi.

According to the Ministry of Health and Population, the on-going airstrikes resulted in the

death of 652 people and 2,021 injuries of which 432 are serious cases. The coalition military operation might continue as no definite time has been set by the coalition. This has led to the displacement of at least 2,000 people from Sana'a to other safer areas in other governorates.



Young YRCS male and female volunteers in action during the armed conflict. Source: YRCS

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The humanitarian interventions of Yemen Red Crescent Society (YRCS) Head Quarters and branches are accepted by target communities all over the country especially in the capital city of Sana'a and its surroundings. This has facilitated the quick response when called by local authority and communities to extend help for affected people in different areas. The main responsibilities of YRCS focused on providing First Aid services for both military and civilian injuries, which is in many cases accompanied by psychological support. Duties also included search, and management of dead bodies.

During the first two days, the YRCS Sana'a branch managed to reach some of the affected people including five injuries and evacuated 17 dead bodies. Also the branch assisted in evacuating 16 families who lost their homes, and 46 families received psychological support. However, due to the current complex situation, there has been difficulty in reaching some of the affected areas. The YRCS

Emergency Response Teams (ERTs) could not reach all the people in need of urgent first aid services.

Both ICRC is supporting the YRCS HQ and branches in managing Emergency Response (ER) activities providing financial, technical, and logistical support and managing the operation room. IFRC is supporting YRCS in relevant technical issues related, covering finance and administration costs, logistic needs of FA items and other materials. Additionally, the HQ has done an assessment to identify the most urgent humanitarian need in collaboration with UN Agencies.

Most of the YRCS branches are involved in providing emergency services in their relevant governorates including Sana'a, Taiz, Aldhale, Lahj, Abyan, Sada, Amran, Dhamar, Mareb, Shabwa, and Hajjah. They have total of 183 active volunteers/members of ERTs, in addition of 446 volunteers providing relief and psychosocial support. The YRCS Sana'a branch has a good response capacity consisting of 60 male and female well trained volunteers and five emergency response/FA teams. There are other branches that also delivered emergency services to those affect by the going armed conflict. Taiz branch handled 62 cases, Lahj branch 54, Aldhale branch 15, and Abyan branch 21.

The YRCS branches continue to provide services including:

- Field emergency FA and referral to hospital for serious cases
  - Evacuation of dead bodies
  - Restoring Family Links (RFL Psychological support for victims and their families)
  - Evacuating civilian living in trapped in unsecure areas.
  - Assessment and implementing relief and food items distribution
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- 1,000 volunteers will be insured under IFRC insurance policy
  - Some inactive branches such as Aden, Ibb and Hodeidah need to be reactivated through proper necessary administrative measures from the HQ, and operation and logistic support from neighbouring branches.
  - There is an operation room for crisis management at the YRCS HQ which will be activated to assist in the prospective larger scale response operation as the humanitarian situation is expected to deteriorate.
  - The YRCS is expected to be a member of the National Joint Operational Room, to widely contribute to emergency situation at the national level.

## Contact information

**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**

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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.

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**Saving lives, changing minds.**



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.