

# PROGRAMME UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

## YEMEN

14 July 2004

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 over 181 countries.

For more information: <http://www.ifrc.org>

### In Brief

**Appeal No. 01.87/2004;**

**Appeal target: CHF 549,039 (USD 412,346 or EUR 353,420);**

**Programme Update no. 1,**

**Period covered: January-June 2004;**

**Appeal coverage: 27.6% (click below for live update)**

[http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?annual04/1-2-3%20-%20ap018704.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/1-2-3%20-%20ap018704.pdf)

**Outstanding needs: CHF 397,447 (USD 321,000 or EUR 261,000)**

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*This Programme Update reflects activities to be implemented over a one-year period. This forms part of, and is based on, longer-term, multi-year planning (refer below to access the detailed logframe documents). All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

### Operational developments

The excellent cooperation climate between the governance and management of Yemen Red Crescent Society (YRCS) and the Federation established last year remains very strong. The Federation Representative, who started his mission in January 2003, left Yemen at the end of his contract in April. A replacement was not immediately recruited and an interim solution with the Federation Representative in Lebanon filling in was agreed with the YRCS. A permanent representative will likely be in place by the end of summer.

The implementation of the Appeal 2004 is on target in most areas, particularly Disaster Management and Organisational Development. As capacity grows to meet the large needs in country, a more ambitious Appeal for 2005 is likely.

The general security situation in Yemen is improving, but tensions remain high between the government and militants in remote areas of the country. The government has claimed victory over al-Qaeda in Yemen, but the borders with Saudi-Arabia and Oman remains porous and government control in remote tribal areas is weak.

A renewal of Yemen's poverty reduction and growth facility (PRGF) programme with IMF is still under negotiation. Attached to the programme is a USD 300 million financial support to the government. This amount is part of a USD 2.3 billion economic support package to Yemen, agreed at a donor meeting in Paris in 2002. The IMF has stated it wants to see further progress towards implementing its policy requirement before renewing the PRGF agreement. The requirements include progress in civil service reform and measures to improve tax administration.

Record high oil prices and better than expected economic growth is likely to give Yemen a small budget surplus in 2004. Over 70% of Yemen's income is from oil which makes the country's economy very vulnerable to international fluctuations in oil prices. Reduced oil prices can thus negatively impact Yemen's economy and its ability to fund the public sector.

## **Health and care**

### **Overall Goal:**

Vulnerable communities are empowered to cope with and respond to priority public health needs and crises following a shift of focus on disease prevention, health promotion and psychological support.

### **Programme Objective 1:**

Prevention of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases is upgraded through outreach programmes carried out by the network of YRCS clinics and volunteers.

### **Expected results:**

- Sixteen social/health workers involved in the management of the YRCS clinics/health posts have been trained in counselling on sexually transmitted illnesses (STIs) and HIV/AIDS and subsequently have improved services to the community;
- A pilot HIV/AIDS youth peer education workshop for 40 participants has been conducted;
- YRCS leadership and health professionals have participated in one national and two regional forums on HIV/AIDS, STIs and other priority infectious diseases;
- YRCS has an increasingly important advocacy role at the community level in fighting stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS;
- YRCS has established working partnerships with national AIDS authorities as well as UN agencies and NGOs working in the field of HIV/AIDS;
- Youth and women groups and organisations have actively participated in awareness campaigns on HIV/AIDS and other STI issues;
- Training on STI has been formally integrated into disaster preparedness/response, organisational development and community based first aid training programmes;

### **Achievements:**

The two YRCS trainers on HIV/AIDS and STI counselling held two workshops in Sana'a and Ibb during January and February. A total of 60 participants from YRCS branches as well as health professionals and care workers in governmental and private hospitals took part in the training. HIV/AIDS and STI awareness material has been distributed to all branches, but follow up training and local awareness campaigns has yet to start. The branches have expressed that combatting HIV/AIDS is one of their main priorities. Some are engaged with local authorities in new initiatives, although a national YRCS plan has yet to be introduced. The counselling training will continue with the Dhamar branch scheduled for September. Dhamar is already working in the local prison with HIV/AIDS patients and their experience will be examined for possible expansion into other branches.

### **Impact:**

- YRCS capacity to give counseling for HIV/AIDS and STI patients much improved

- People living with HIV/AIDS have access to counseling
- YRCS and health professionals engaged in exchange of experiences through common workshops

**Constraints:**

- Lack of funds to follow up plans to expand HIV/AIDS activities of the YRCS to include advocacy, peer education.
- No health department in the YRCS headquarter to follow up vis-à-vis the branches
- YRCS not yet a government partner in the campaign against HIV/AIDS and STIs

**Programme Objective 2:**

Services of the YRCS' clinics and health education programmes, including community based first aid networks, are upgraded and increasingly integrated with disaster preparedness and response services.

**Expected results:**

- Four clinics have been rehabilitated in terms of physical rehabilitation of facilities and provision of equipment and upgraded in terms of integration into their curative and prevention services and dissemination of humanitarian values;
- Six clinics have been offering health education campaigns specifically targeting health and nutrition of mothers and children;
- Forty volunteers and staff members who were trained in hygiene education and vaccination campaigns have been actively participating in implementing associated programmes;
- For a moderate fee four first aid courses have been offered by YRCS;
- A standardised community based first aid (CBFA) curriculum has been systematically used by the society for training organised at both headquarters and in the branches;
- Thirty volunteers and health workers from the branches have actively participated in the prevention/control of vector borne diseases such as malaria and other communicable diseases;
- Critical gaps in the provision of health services for targeted communities have been assessed and appropriate projects developed.

**Achievements:**

Two clinics have been totally refurbished according to plan, two more will follow later this year. The two completed clinics are in Hodeida and Dhamar, very active branches in densely populated areas. The refurbishment included upgrading equipment and furniture in the clinics as well. The more attractive and professional appearance have helped the branches improve their trust in the local community and their ability to effectively advocate public health issues. This gradual shift from curative to preventive activities is expected to continue in all branches.

Additional medical screening equipment was purchased and donated to four clinics in dire need of replacing defunct equipment. Although not part of the initial expected results, it was deemed necessary to keep the clinics functional and the reputation of the YRCS intact.

A workshop on CBFA was held in Aden in February. The workshop was facilitated by the MENA Regional Health delegate. All 12 branches sent participants, 26 in total. The YRCS is now in a position to actively promote their training throughout the country as their capacity increases. With a contribution from Qatar Red Crescent, 50 extensive First Aid kits were bought in June and distributed to the CBFA workshop participants with the remaining kits being evenly distributed to the branches. The promotion of paid First Aid training for private sector companies shows signs of possible success. In June, YRCS organised a three day course for a large travel agency in Yemen.

An expected health service assessment will start in early autumn that will eventually lead to a more comprehensive plan for YRCS health activities.

**Impact:**

- YRCS patients in Hodeidah and Dhamar have access to improved clinics
- Screening services to vulnerable people in four governorates continues
- Improved First Aid training capacity in all branches

- Better First Aid response capacity of YRCS volunteers
- First recorded income from delivering First Aid training to private sector companies

**Constraints:**

- Lack of funds to continue necessary refurbishment of clinics and introduce effective disease prevention measures (malaria and infectious diseases in particular).
- No health department in the YRCS headquarter to follow up vis-à-vis the branches

**Programme Objective 3:**

Teams composed of YRCS staff and volunteers offer effective and timely response to public health crises through its network of 15 clinics.

**Expected results:**

- A decentralised branch level network of 24 trained professional and volunteers has been established to respond to public health crisis;
- Eighty volunteers have been trained in basic first aid, search and rescue and rapid damage assessment
- Sixteen staff and volunteers have been trained in health management and service provision in temporary shelters.

**Achievements:**

No formal national training has yet taken place to form health intervention teams. However, there are health professionals attached to the 15 YRCS clinics capable to intervene in times of national health crisis. Further progress will depend on the outcome of the upcoming health assessment.

**Impact:**

- None

**Constraints:**

- Lack of funds and capacity to train the intervention teams.

## **Disaster management**

**Overall Goal:**

Yemen Red Crescent Society has well functioning disaster management capacities enabling it to respond to disasters within the scope of its mandate.

**Programme Objective:**

YRCS develops disaster management programmes and capacities based on sound planning, appropriate logistical systems, upgraded knowledge on relief operations and smooth flow of information.

**Expected results:**

- Recommendations from the vulnerability capacity assessment (VCA) studies have been used to create partnerships with national and international organisations;
- VCA studies have been launched in 4 governorates;
- YRCS' emergency plan of action has been updated through a participatory process to include branches and volunteers;
- The national society has a clear, complementary role as per the national disaster response plan;
- YRCS' ambulances and water truck have been renovated;
- Thirty volunteers and staff members became trainers in DM and have further trained 150 volunteers and staff from 11 branches;
- Evaluation of the two pilot risk reduction projects on road safety has been carried out;
- Projects focusing on the reduction of road accidents among school children have been designed and expanded into three other governorates/branches;
- The national society's logistical system has been upgraded to handle relief for 1,500 victims of disasters;

- Forty-five participants have taken part in the workshop which integrated topics on community based disaster management with basic health issues and sanitation;
- Disaster preparedness/response activities have been coordinated with conflict preparedness programmes of the ICRC;
- The national intervention team (NIT) has been equipped with 125 survival kits;
- Awareness activities on risks and hazards have been conducted in the communities of three governorates/branches.

#### **Achievements:**

The VCA process is progressing, but the data is not yet analysed for use in planning and programme development. A total of four branches have completed the data collection in their respective governorates, covering 16 districts within the governorates. The branches involved are Ibb, Aden, Abyan and Al-Mahweet. A draft strategy plan on disaster management 2004/2005, including a budget, has been sent to all participating branches and the VCA will eventually feed into the plan. The branches have agreed to participate in the data analysis together with three appointed focal points at headquarters level. The VCA analysis will take place in Taiz 24-31 July.

The water truck is renovated according to an agreement between the Federation and the YRCS. Ambulances from the branches in Dhamar, Taiz, Hodeidah and at headquarters have also been renovated.

The training of trainers in disaster management has not yet started. A training manual is however completed and the training methodology agreed with the YRCS. The manual is sent for printing and will be ready in July with the first training of trainers scheduled for August in Dhamar branch.

An evaluation of the risk reduction programme on road safety was completed in February 2004. The clear recommendation from YRCS, local authorities and police is that the programme should continue. The priority should be given to governorates with major population centres where traffic is dense and road accidents frequent. It was also recommended that the schools participating in the initial pilot should continue the programme. Two governorates are now planning on taking on the programme; Hodeidah and Hajja.

Three volunteers from YRCS participated in a logistics workshop held in Amman. These volunteers will assist YRCS to establish improved logistics routines and eventually train volunteers in the branches. The logistical system is not yet upgraded to the level of being able to handle medium to large scale relief operations, but progress is being made. A one-week logistics training is planned for September in Aden.

A disaster response workshop organised by the Federation, YRCS and OXFAM was held in the governorates of Aden and Taiz with 120 participants from local authorities, NGOs and YRCS. Topics included community participation and risk awareness.

#### **Impact:**

- Sufficient data collected for analysis of vulnerabilities and capacities in 4 governorates
- Improved readiness of water truck and ambulances
- Increased capacity to train volunteers in disaster management
- Improved capacity to respond to disasters

#### **Constraints:**

- Lack of funds has seriously delayed some of the planned activities.
- Serious communication problems (lack of telephone, fax) with some of the governorates.
- Lack of vehicles or other transportation means to reach the branches.

## **Humanitarian Values**

#### **Overall Goal:**

Decision makers and the public at large understand and respect RC/RC fundamental principles and values

#### **Programme Objective:**

The YRCS has an improved capacity to both promote the humanitarian values and fundamental principles of the Movement and increase visibility among the public at large.

**Expected results:**

- *Ithar's* editor and writers as well as YRCS staff and volunteers have been trained thus improving overall communication capacities of the society;
- The YRCS has developed a good working relationship and partnerships with local and national media thus ensuring improved coverage of events organised by the national society;
- YRCS staff and volunteers have been trained in techniques of dissemination of the Movement's values and principles in cooperation with the Federation and the ICRC;
- Overall community awareness and knowledge about the RC/RC Movement and the humanitarian activities of the YRCS have increased.

**Achievements:**

The staff of *Ithar* has improved the publication by introducing a new modern format and improved layout. The content is also much improved and includes a wider variety of topics and news articles.

A media workshop was held 27 – 29 March for local news agencies, local newspapers, national TV stations and national news agencies. The workshop was facilitated by the MENA regional information officer. The aim was to improve the knowledge of YRCS humanitarian mandate and activities in Yemen as well as establish better connections with the media.

**Impact:**

- Better internal and external communication
- More people aware of RC/RC principles, values and activities
- Improved relations with the media

**Constraints:**

- Widespread abuse of RC emblem still undermines YRCS image
- Lack of material resources to print and distribute publications

## **Organisational development**

**Overall Goal:**

The Yemen Red Crescent Society is a well functioning national society with a range of focused and quality programmes serving the most vulnerable segments of the population.

**Programme Objective:**

The YRCS has skilled human resources, effective systems and procedures and an improved financial/material resource base.

**Expected results:**

- Composition, services and systems of the YRCS have become more efficient to meet the expectations of beneficiaries and other stakeholders;
- The national society has explored opportunities to diversify its financial/material resource base;
- The YRCS has well trained and committed leaders and middle-managers at the headquarters and in the branches;
- Staff members and volunteers have been using process planning tools to design and implement their activities thus ensuring wider community participation and accountability;
- Amended statutes provide an improved base for YRCS services.

**Achievements:**

With funds from the Capacity Building Fund (CBF), a local area network (LAN) and 12 new computers were bought and installed at the YRCS HQ. A high speed ISDN internet connection was also included in the project. A

total of 12 HQ staff from the YRCS were trained in computer use including relevant applications. This has improved the capacity and efficiency at the HQ level with the branches to follow next.

A PPP (Project Planning Process) course was held in Sana'a for 24 YRCS staff from the branches and HQ. This course was facilitated by the ME Regional Office. The knowledge of this planning tool is now being applied to the preparation for the Appeal 2005.

The election of a new YRCS President and appointment of a new Secretary General last year continues to have a positive effect on the development of the society.

**Impact:**

- Improved efficiency and capacity of YRCS HQ staff through computerization
- Better planning of activities in the branches
- Increased national society involvement in their Appeal process

**Constraints:**

- Lack of optimal communication between HQ and branches
- Need for improved logistics and financial management capacity
- Minimal resource mobilisation from within the country
- Lack of material resources in the branches such as vehicles, communication equipment and computers

## **Cooperation, Coordination and Strategic Partnerships**

**Overall goal:**

The YRCS has a stronger role in the communities based on effective cooperation and partnerships with the government and humanitarian organisations thus contributing to the well being of the most vulnerable.

**Programme Objective:**

Strategies and programmes of the YRCS aimed at expanding its support and assistance to the communities are increasingly known and endorsed by national and international stakeholders enabling it to make the best use of the available resources.

**Expected results:**

- The performance of the national society in terms of service delivery and advocacy has improved, with a shift in focus towards community support and assistance;
- National and international organisations, as well as the general public, have increased knowledge and understanding of the achievements and challenges faced by the YRCS and the Movement as a whole;
- YRCS membership increased by 20%;
- One new international partner identified;
- A reviewed strategic plan has been used for initiating the CAS process.

**Achievements:**

The YRCS has gradually improved its capacity to deliver services and advocate on behalf of vulnerable people. Training in the areas of health & care and disaster management is having a considerable effect on the YRCS performance as a whole. With more focus on community support and assistance, new advocates for this change are growing within the ranks of the organisation. A more targeted approach towards the media has resulted in more coverage of the YRCS activities.

The Danish Red Cross has submitted applications for two new programmes in partnership with the YRCS. One programme aims to improve the governance of the society, whereas the other will focus on mobilising youth volunteers in the YRCS for active involvement in addressing humanitarian and development challenges in their communities. Both programmes have a 2 year time frame.

The YRCS Strategic Plan will be updated later in the year, awaiting the VCA process and the health services assessment.

**Impact:**

- Improved capability and knowledge of YRCS staff and volunteers
- New partnership being developed with the Danish Red Cross

**Constraints:**

- Reluctance by some YRCS staff and volunteers to accept a shift in activity focus