

# 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

29 December 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: [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

### In Brief

Appeal No. 01.87/2004; Programme Update no. 2, Period covered: July to December 2004;  
Appeal coverage: 45.7%; ([Please click here to go directly to the Contributions List](#))

Appeal target: CHF 549,039 (USD 484,670 or EUR 355,610)

#### Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:

Yemen Annual Appeal 2004 (For details, please see the website at

[http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?annual04/018704.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/018704.pdf))

Yemen Annual Appeal 2004 Programme Update no.1 (For details, please see the website at

[http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?annual04/01870401.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/01870401.pdf))

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

- Yemen Red Crescent Society: Dr Abbas Zamarah, Secretary General, Phone +9671298615; Fax +9671283131; email [yemenrc@yahoo.com](mailto:yemenrc@yahoo.com)
- Delegation: Mr. Peter Kurlandsky, Federation Representative, Phone +9671293226; Fax +9671283133; email [ifrcye02@ifrc.org](mailto:ifrcye02@ifrc.org)
- Geneva Secretariat: Mr. Evgeni Parfenov, Desk officer, Phone 41 22 730 4325; Fax 41 22 733 0395; email [evgeni.parfenov@ifrc.org](mailto:evgeni.parfenov@ifrc.org)

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. 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 implementation of the programmes was slowed down and in some cases came to a halt due to the vacant position of Federation Representative in Yemen for a period of time. The Head of Delegation (HoD) in Lebanon has been in charge for Yemen for three months, taking care of the most important issues. The previous Representative was reappointed to assume his duties in mid September 2004. Unfortunately, his return was immediately followed by the holy month of Ramadan, during which no major activities are usually performed in Yemen. Due to this fact, a lot of activities in all core areas have taken place during the last period of the year and will in January 2005.

## 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.

### Program Objectives

#### **Prevention of HIV-AIDS, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and hepatitis**

Prevention of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases is upgraded through outreach programmes carried out by the network of Yemen Red Crescent Society (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 for STIs and HIV-AIDS and have improved services to the community.
- One Youth Peer Education workshop is conducted for 40 participants.
- YRCS leadership and health professionals have participated in one national and two regional forums on HIV/AIDS, STIs, and other priority infectious diseases
- YRCS played an advocacy role in fighting with stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS.
- YRCS has established working partnerships with National AIDS authorities as well as United Nations (UN) agencies and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) working in the field of HIV/AIDS.
- Youth and women groups and organizations have actively participated in awareness raising campaigns on HIV/AIDS and other STIs.
- STI training is formally integrated into relevant training programs including disaster preparedness/response, organizational development, and community based first aid.

#### **Achievements:**

The two YRCS HIV/AIDS trainers, who were trained by the Federation in Beirut, have been active in delivering knowledge and skills to other target groups. First, they facilitated two workshops about HIV/AIDS and STI counselling, including such topics as methods of prevention, transmission of diseases, stigma, people living with AIDS, etc. The workshops were held in both Sana'a and Ibb during January and February 2004. The total number of participants who benefited from these workshops reached 60 persons, ranging from different YRCS branches to government and private

health workers. It is evident that combating HIV/AIDS has become a priority issue for the YRCS branches and some of the branches have started initiatives with local authorities.

The same two YRCS HIV/AIDS and STI trainers, who held two workshops earlier this year, are now preparing for two more workshops to be held during the second half of December. The workshop in Sana'a will target some other different categories of community and health workers, which were not covered in the past. The other one will be conducted in Dhamar, the third new governorate to be included, with close support and coordination from its branch which has already engaged in working with HIV/AIDS patients in the local prison. In an effort to raise public health awareness and correct misconceptions, the National Society distributed posters and health messages about HIV/AIDS, its prevention, and methods of transmitting the disease.

Some activities planned to be implemented during November and December have been postponed, including the participation of the YRCS focal point in a psychological support workshop to be held in Qatar in the third week of January 2005.

**Impact:**

- YRCS health staff, volunteers, government and private health professionals have updated their knowledge and exchanged experience through these workshops.
- YRCS capacity to give counselling for HIV/AIDS and STI infected people has been increased.
- People living with HIV/AIDS have gained more access to counselling, which helped in controlling the spread of the disease to others

**Constraints:**

- The limited number of YRCS trainers on HIV/AIDS and STI has slowed down the expansion of this activity to other branches of the National Society.
- The shortage of funds hinders the upgrading of YRCS HIV/AIDS plans in order to include advocacy and peer education.
- The YRCS Headquarters lacks a health department to follow up pertinent activities with branches.
- YRCS still suffers from not being acknowledged as a government partner in combating with HIV/AIDS and STI.

**Community Based First Aid (CBFA)**

Services of YRCS clinics and health education programmes including community based first aid networks are upgraded and integrated with disaster preparedness and response service.

**Expected Results:**

- Four medical clinics of the National Society are rehabilitated, including both physical improvements (where needed) and medical equipment and upgraded to provide services in the promotion of health and dissemination of the Red Crescent values.
- Six clinics offer health education campaigns targeting women and child health and nutrition.
- 40 volunteers and staff of the National Society, who were trained in health education and vaccination campaigns, actively participated in hygiene education, vaccination campaigns and associated education programs.
- Four First Aid courses have been arranged by the society for a moderate fee.
- A core standardized CBFA curriculum is used by society and branches.

- 30 branch volunteers and health workers actively participated in the prevention/control of vector borne diseases such as malaria, and other communicable diseases.
- Critical gaps in health services provision for targeted communities are assessed and appropriate projects developed.

### Achievements:

In February 2004, the second phase of the community based first aid workshop for twenty four participants from all branches and headquarters was held in Aden with the attendance of the regional health coordinator, as well as the psychological support delegate. This workshop was a complimentary course to the previous CBFA workshop held in Sana'a in August 2003. The aim of the workshops was to improve the quality of training by introducing new training techniques. The workshop was planned and organized by the YRCS and supported by the regional health delegate. Subsequently, new techniques and training methodology were incorporated into several local first aid training workshops held in all of the governorates during 2003 and 2004. At least two participants were selected from each branch, each course continued for 7 days and the curriculum covered topics as:

- First aid principles
- Breathing, circulation, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (C.P.R), coma
- Bleeding, electric shocks
- Wounds, burns, bandages, dressing
- Poisoning, food poisoning
- Bone fractures, sprains
- Carrying the injured, unconsciousness, fainting
- Psychological support
- Universal precautions
- Training techniques



**The First Aid kits were handed over with a ceremony to the 24 participants who were trained in a two step module**

The final phase in this process was accomplished on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October 2004, when 24 first aid kits were distributed to participants from all the branches with a special ceremony. With a donation from the Qatar Red Crescent Society, the YRCS was able to procure 50 well-equipped First Aid kits. Both governance and management from the YRCS attended the ceremony, as well as the Head of Regional Delegation in Amman and the Federation Representative in Yemen. The event was properly covered by all major newspapers and TV stations in Yemen.

A comprehensive health assessment is being performed, covering the twelve branches and four sub-branches of the National Society. The assessment which will be concluded in a few weeks represents an essential tool to identify appropriate methods of intervention to support clinics and upgrade their health services. It will also assist in shaping proper strategies for the National Society, regarding emphasis on shifting from curative to preventive health care and health education to local communities in more susceptible areas.

The National Society has taken an important step by creating a new post of a health coordinator and selecting the person who will assume his responsibilities by the beginning of next year. The position has been required since quite some time, in order to overcome most of the constraints faced by branches in implementing health activities.

**Impact:**

- YRCS targeted and vulnerable communities have wider access to improved and reliable health services, either with a nominal amount of fee or with no fee.
- The training capacity of all branches in community based first aid has been improved
- The capacity of all branches' volunteers in first aid response has been enhanced.

**Constraints:**

- Shortage of necessary funds to continue rehabilitation of remaining branch health clinics and to introduce effective disease prevention measures including Malaria.
- Lack of coordination between branches and headquarters concerning health programmes, due to lack of a health department and a coordinator at the headquarters.

**Relief Health and Public Health Crises**

YRCS teams composed of staff and volunteers offer effective and timely response to public health crises through its network of 15 clinics and 4 sub branches.

**Expected Results:**

- A decentralized branch level network of 24 trained professional and volunteers is established and responds to public health crisis
- 80 Volunteers are trained in basic first aid, search and rescue, and rapid damage assessments (partly under Disaster Management).
- 16 staff and volunteers have been trained in health management and service provision for communities in temporary shelters.

**Achievements:**

No formal national training has yet taken place to form intervention teams. However, there are health professionals attached to the 15 YRCS clinics capable to intervene in time of national health crises. 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.
- No new branches have been opened during this period.

## Disaster Management

**Overall Goal:** Yemen Red Crescent Society has well functioning Disaster Management (DM) capacities to be able to respond to disasters within the scope of its mandate.

**Program Objective:** To strengthen YRCS disaster management programmes and capacities including aspects of planning, logistical systems, development of relief operations and information flow.

### Expected Results/Activities

- The Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) results of four governorates have been completed (Taiz, Dahmar, Aden and Mahweet) and shared with national and international organizations to encourage them to participate in the implementation of these recommendations.
- VCA studies have started in four governorates
- Recommendations emerging from VCA studies, involving communities, local authorities and other service providers, are used to implement risk reduction projects and improve the quality of the services by the National Society and other agencies.
- YRCS emergency plan of action updated through a participatory process to include branches and volunteers.
- The National Society has a clarified complementary role defined within the national disaster management plan.
- Ambulances and water truck belonging to YRCS have been renovated.
- 30 volunteers and staff have become DM trainers and they have further trained 150 volunteers and staff from 11 branches.
- Evaluation of the two pilot risk reduction projects (September 2003/2004) has been carried out.
- Logistical system is upgraded by the National Society in order to be able to assist up to 1,500 victims in time of disasters.
- Risk reduction projects focusing on reduction of road accidents among school children are expanding into three other governorates/branches.
- DM workshop carried out for 45 people to enhance awareness, education, prevention and mitigation through community-based disaster management combined with basic health issues including sanitation
- The Disaster Preparedness/Disaster Response (DP/DR) activities have been coordinated with International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) conflict preparedness programmes.
- National Intervention Team (NIT) has been equipped with 125 survival kits enabling them to carry out response activities.
- Community based disaster preparedness programme is implemented through conducting awareness activities regarding risks and hazards in three governorates/branches.

### Achievements:

The VCA process was finalized as the four branches of Ibb, Aden, Abyan, and alMahweet have completed the data collection covering 16 districts. In the logistical measures, Taiz branch has

refurnished its warehouse and attached new installation of shelves for storing and classifying all relief stocks and related DP items in order. During 25–27 October, a disaster management planning meeting was held at YRCS headquarters, with the participation of the Amman Regional Disaster Preparedness Programme (DPP) Delegate and DM focal points from all branches.

The VCA analysis was reviewed during the meeting and it was decided to revise the language of the analysis and redo all graphics by using more understandable diagrams. Five hundred copies of DM Manual Guidelines have been printed out and ready for distribution to trainers.

After the second national intervention team exercise, the National Society decided to update the emergency plan of action in accordance with the national plan.

The DM/DP officer from YRCS participated in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) planning process in building up a national emergency plan of action.

The VCA results showed the exact roles and responsibilities of all the institutions in Yemen in case of disasters.

DP Training of Trainers (ToT) was organized by the DM working group and a plan of action has been developed to carry out DP training in all branches in 2005.

Case studies were developed to disseminate the best practice of the road safety projects in the two governorates where the programme took place and it is decided to expand the project into three other districts, due to the positive impact of the project on the school students and the branches.

Modified logistic forms have been printed and distributed to all branches in order to start the implementation process of a logistics system within the National Society at national and branch levels.



**Gender balance was tried to be maintained during different training programmes**

132 volunteers from all branches participated in the second NIT exercise in Abyan, facilitated by the regional DPP delegate and supported by three Syrian volunteers who participated in facilitating camp management, relief health and Sphere standards. The training took place during 30 November – 6 December 2004 and the participants were well balanced, where about 30 percent were females. During the training, ICRC introduced the tracing programme and also equipped the NIT members with First Aid kits to be added to their survival kits.

Three DM focal persons in the three governments of Taiz, Dhamar, and Sana'a have been nominated to participate in the consultative meeting for coordinators which took place in Syria between 15-20 December 2004.

A workshop for TOT in DM is taking place in Dhamar during 27-30 December 2004 with the participation of 12 participants covering the majority of the branches. The two resource persons facilitating the training are volunteers from Jordan and Syrian Red Crescent Societies.

**Impact:**

- After the second national intervention team exercise, the National Society established the first response approach within the disaster cycle
- A new organization structure was put into practice during the DM training camp.
- A focal point for sphere standards was nominated to coordinate regional and national level activities.
- The logistics system is clearer for the DM working group and the need assessment is required to assess the National Society relief and response capacities.
- The international and national organizations recognized the importance of the VCA study through showing their interest in the findings and complementing the National Society role.

**Constraints:**

- Lack of administration to identify the required tasks and assign duties.
- Absence of coordination between the branch of Abyan, who hosted the DM Camp, and the local authorities.
- Weakness of human resources at the host branch of Abyan.
- Unpunctual delivery of required needs well before the opening of the Camp.
- Negligence of the timeframe/agenda that has been approved by the coordinators.
- Scarcity of resources and limited access to purchase required items at the venue which entailed frequent travels.
- Absence of the DM Coordinator's role before and during the camp as well as tardiness of some coordinators in doing their agreed duties.

## **Humanitarian Values**

**Overall Goal:** Decision makers and public increase their awareness concerning the Red Cross/Red Crescent (RC/RC) fundamental principles and values in order to enhance the respect and visibility of these values.

**Program Objective:** The YRCS has improved capacities to promote the humanitarian values and the fundamental principles of the Movement, as well as obtained greater visibility among the public at large.

**Expected Results**

- Communication capacity of YRCS has improved through training of Al-Ithar's editor, writers and YRCS staff and volunteers
- The YRCS has developed good working relations and partnerships with local and national media, ensuring coverage of YRCS events.

- In cooperation with the Federation and ICRC, YRCS staff and volunteers have been trained in effective dissemination of the Movement's values and principles.
- Overall community awareness and knowledge about the Movement and the humanitarian activities of the YRCS have increased

**Achievements:**

The official bimonthly publication of *al-Ithar* (altruism) has a new look and the content has been improved. The subjects are varied to cover all news and information of concern to the National Society, the international movement and International Humanitarian Law (IHL). There are separate two pages dedicated for ICRC and the Federation in each issue. During the reporting period, three workshops on information and dissemination have been carried through, attended by two participants from each YRCS branch. The International Day of First Aid was observed by the headquarters, where a seminar was held which gathered approximately 20 journalists from different government and private newspapers. Participants were acquainted with the essence of the day as well as YRCS role, objectives, activities and RC/RC principles. The event was attended by some of the YRCS leaderships and the ICRC Head of Delegation.

A media training workshop was held between 27-29 March for ten to twelve selected YRCS staff members/volunteers, local newspapers, Yemeni news agencies, national TV and radio stations. The workshop was facilitated by the Middle East/North Africa (MENA) regional information officer. The aim was to improve the knowledge of YRCS humanitarian mandate and activities in Yemen, as well as to establish better connections with the media. The reporting period also witnessed other events including three information training courses for two persons from each branch, and an evaluation meeting with dissemination officers at branch level.

**Impact:**

- Improvement of internal and external communication capacity of the YRCS headquarters and branches.
- Good dissemination activities of the International Movement of the RC/RC and the IHL.
- Better relations with the mass media, due to various seminars and workshops involving local media newspapers at the government and private levels
- Expanded coverage of YRCS activities and projects on the daily TV and radio stations' local news, as well as in different newspapers.

**Constraints:**

- Al-Ithar publication is suffering from lack of specialized trained and professional personnel who can upgrade the quality of the widely distributed and read magazine.
- Misconception of the YRCS emblem which is being abused by other health institutions, thus undermining the image of the National Society.
- The shortage in material supplies represents a considerable barrier to meet deadlines in distributing and printing publications periodically or as required.

## Organizational Development

**Overall Goal:** The YRCS is a well functioning national society with a range of focused and quality programmes serving the most vulnerable segment of the population.

**Programme Objectives:** The YRCS has skilled human resources, effective systems and procedures with improving financial/material resource base .

### Expected Results

- National Society structures, services and systems are efficient and meet the expectations of its beneficiaries and other stakeholders
- The National Society has diversified its financial/material resource base.
- The YRCS has well-trained and committed leaders/ managers at headquarters and branches
- National Society staff and volunteers have improved their capacities in planning, implementation and monitoring of activities in a manner that ensures wider community participation and greater accountability.

### Achievements:



**The National Society staff and volunteers were trained on computer software, which in turn, helps them to facilitate their tasks**

By the end of February 2004, the construction work and installation of the computer local area network was finalized. The YRCS headquarter and the Sana'a branch are now well equipped with 12 modern computer workstations and fast digital ISDN internet connection. The Personal Computer sets were evenly distributed to the trained staff in different departments. A recent survey indicated that about seven out of ten employees and volunteers are using their computer on a daily basis to perform routine tasks faster and more accurate than ever before. The statistics are going to be improved dramatically as the ISDN internet connection has been maintained earlier this

month, allowing exchange of huge files and faster communication.

The new senior and managerial staff with their English language skills represented a specific addition to the National Society headquarters, which facilitated dealing with the Federation Representative and establishing constructive relations with other donors and relevant international organizations.

Two participants from the YRCS branch of Amran and Federation Office in Sana'a attended a Project Planning Process (PPP) workshop in Amman in November 2004. This course is not only essential in strengthening the capacities of the national society to respond adequately to the international requirements, but also to use it as an internal planning tool. The acquired planning knowledge has already been applied in the preparation of the Appeal for 2005 and Capacity Building Fund (CBF) proposal for branches computerization.

The secretary general of YRCS has participated in all of the three training modules of the RC/RC Movement leadership course. In September 2004, he finalized the leadership training by attending the third module which was held in Tunisia. The course was organized and facilitated by the regional office in Amman. A new leadership orientation course, inviting both the executive board in Sana'a and all the heads of the branches, will be conducted at the YRCS headquarters in January 2005.

In its pursuit to develop the gender awareness issue within the National Society and community at large, the YRCS has nominated one female participant in order to attend in the upcoming gender workshop. The workshop will be held during 27-30 December 2004 in Amman and be facilitated by the Regional Office there.

**Impact:**

- The staff and volunteers of YRCS headquarters have shown better efficiency and capacity in utilizing computers and network to perform routine and complex tasks.
- PPP trained staff at branch level have better planning capacity for activities and project proposals which was evident in their increased positive involvement in the consultative meeting for Appeal 2005.
- Leadership on RC/RC movement is well trained and oriented.

**Constraints:**

- Frequent interruption of internet and ISDN connection, due to virus attacks or misuse of hardware and software.
- Lack of material resources in the branches such as vehicles, communication equipments.
- Lack of funding to implement the second phase of the project, the computerization of branches and training of staff to accomplish the objective of the project as whole.

**Federation Cooperation, Coordination, Management and Implementation**

**Overall Goal:** The YRCS has taken on a stronger community based role while maintaining its recognized partnership with the Government and other Humanitarian organisations in the effort made to improve the situation of the most vulnerable.

**Program Objective:** Through the supporting role of the Federation, the YRCS has developed strategies and programmes to increase its community support and assistance, as well as established a constructive relationship with national and international stakeholders which enable it to make the best use of available recourses.

**Expected Results**

- The performance of the National Society in terms of service delivery and advocacy has been improved, with more emphasis on community support and assistance.
- National and international organizations, as well as the general public, have increased knowledge and understanding of the achievements and challenges faced by the YRCS and by the Movement as a whole.
- YRCS membership is increased by 20%.
- At least one new International Partner is identified.
- The YRCS has updated its strategic plan and by the end of 2004, drafted a first Cooperation and Agreement Strategy (CAS).

**Achievements:**

The President and the Secretary General of YRCS visited the Federation Secretariat in Geneva and had profitable discussions with heads of Health, Organisational Development and Operational Support Department.

In regard of international partnership, the YRCS has managed to establish cooperative relations with the Danish Red Cross, who expressed its interest to support an ambitious programme in line with the strategies and priorities of the Yemeni National Society. In continuation of its coordination with the Government, in September, the YRCS sent a huge consignment of relief items to an armed conflict area in mountains of Sada'a, to the far north of Yemen, an event that was fully covered by media means. The National Society also maintained its coordination and cooperation with other national non-governmental and humanitarian organizations, such as the blind girl's boarding schools in Sana'a and orphanages in Ibb branch. In the field of DM, the YRCS also exchanged experience and coordinated with other organizations and government departments such as Oxfam, UNDP, and Civil Defence.

**Impact:**

- Enhanced ability to mobilize local resources and charitable parties to respond to contingency cases serving the principles of the RC/RC movement.
- Despite its limited resources, YRCS has been able to extend some material assistance to other local NGOs, clinics, prisons, etc. in order to enhance YRCS roles at the national arena.
- People are more aware of the National Society and the International Movement due to extensive media coverage of relevant events held by YRCS including CBF training, workshops, graduations, World First Aid Day, etc.
- Improved relations with RC/RC societies like the Danish Red Cross, Qatari Red Crescent, and United Arab Emirates Red Crescent, which is evident by continuous cooperation.

**Constraints:**

- More coordination and agreement is needed between YRCS DM department and the Civil Defense. The National Society is seeking a more defined and recognized role in terms of DP and DR, complementary to other stakeholders' roles.
- Due to no permanent Federation representative, some activities have been hampered.
- Lack of communication means and information technology equipments at branch level which hinders smooth access to information and the implementation of advocacy and dissemination activities.

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