

Annual report

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Yemen

Appeal No. MAAYE001

30/04/2009

This report covers the period 01/01/2008 to 31/12/2008.



Yemen Red Crescent Society volunteers promoted awareness on the World AIDS Day through various public events in the capital Sana'a. **Yemen Red Crescent Society.**

In brief

Programme purpose: The overall programme goal aims at supporting Yemen Red Crescent (Yemen RC) in the main areas of interventions within its mandate and Strategy for 2007-2011. The strategy focuses on scaling up services and building up capacities. Capacity development is an integral part of the Yemen RC programmes with emphasis on improving effective leadership and management, as well as efficient systems and procedures.

Programmes summary: In spite of the increasing security concerns during 2008, most of the programmes of Yemen RC were implemented with minimum disruption. Preparedness and response at local level was maintained through enhancing the disaster response stocks of some branches and responding to floods that occurred in various governorates. In health and care, focus was given on first aid, psycho-social support, and community based health development. Progress on the intensified capacity building (ICB) plan was made, which aims to establish 12 sub-branches over three years under the five selected governorate branches.

The partnership meeting in April, signing of the operational alliance (OA) agreement in May and the overall management review in September are the key events to note in 2008.

Financial situation: The total 2008 budget was revised from CHF 1,754,913 (USD 1,663,898 or EUR 1,172,600) to CHF 1,250,382 (USD 1,185,533 or EUR 835,482). Based on the budget, the Plan is 80 per cent covered. The overall expenditure was CHF 716,920 (USD 679,738 or EUR 479,032), representing a 57.3 per cent implementation rate. The shift of focus towards the Hadramout floods

emergency operation during the last quarter of the year has affected the implementation rate of the 2008 Plan, thus, the activities which were not implemented as a result of the shift are included in the plan of action for 2009.

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

No. of people we help: Through its network of branches and health clinics, the Yemen RC provides primary health care (PHC) services including first aid to up to 30,000 to 35,000 beneficiaries every year. The OA based community health programme aims to reach up to 10,000 beneficiaries in the pilot phase implementation in two districts/communities in the governorates of Hajja and Hoidedah.

Our partners: The Yemen RC and the International Federation are working together with a number of partners including the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Norwegian Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, French Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Department for International Development (DfID), Oxfam, Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Education (MoE), Civil Defence, Traffic Department, Islamic Relief, Yemeni Women Union, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organisation (WHO), and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Swedish RC and government, DfID, Danish government through Danish RC, Norwegian government through Norwegian RC and United Arab Emirates Red Crescent have been the contributors to the International Federation Plan during 2008.

Context

After a period of escalation during the first half of the year, the conflict in the northern governorate of Saadah gradually came to an end with increasing stability during the second half of 2008. However, the Yemen RC and ICRC continued to provide humanitarian services throughout the year assisting the displaced population.

In October 2008, major flash floods hit the eastern part of Yemen causing extensive damage in the governorates of Hadramout and Al Amrah. According to official estimates by the government, up to 25,000-30,000 people have been displaced and lost their livelihoods. Supported by the International Federation and bilaterally by partner National Societies (PNS), the Yemen RC is assisting up to 1,500 families (10,500 beneficiaries) with food and non-food relief items.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Management

Outcomes/Expected results

- Internal disaster management capacities (structures, technical support teams and systems/procedures) are enhanced.
- A more comprehensive disaster management is in place to enable the Yemen RC to ensure rapid response with rehabilitation support in certain aspects.
- Quality and impact of disaster management services are improved based on vulnerability capacity assessments.
- Coordination with the Civil Defence and other actors are enhanced.

Achievements

In 2008, the Yemen RC focused on preparedness and response at local level. Field missions were carried out to Sadaah branch for needs' analysis and Socotra branch for capacity assessment. Non-food items, provided by ICRC to cover the needs of 256 internally displaced families dislocated from Sadaah governorate, were distributed.

The National Society responded to the floods in Taiz and Hoidedah governorates with relief items and shelter distribution, reaching up to 500 beneficiaries. Disaster management stocks were delivered to the Ibb branch to build its capacity to assist up to 50 families (350 beneficiaries), while branch level preparedness stocks to be used by the branches in Saadah and Socotra were purchased to be ready to assist up to 200 families (1,400 beneficiaries).

The Sana'a branch provided blankets and tents to 63 beneficiaries and food assistance to 262 refugees held in Sana'a prison. An open day session was organised where up to 220 people benefited from the dissemination on disaster risk reduction (DRR). Through a five-day public awareness programme on DRR and first aid - with RC tents being set in public parks during the Eid holidays - more than 3,000 people were reached through the information and dissemination carried out by the Yemen RC volunteers.

Following the end of the armed conflict by late September, an assessment was carried out to determine the humanitarian and rehabilitation needs of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) as a basis for planning an appropriate response together with the ICRC and other partners. In cooperation with Oxfam, the Yemen RC branch in Saadah worked on the rehabilitation of water facilities including maintenance of water distribution points. The Yemen RC has further signed an agreement with OXFAM to support similar activities between September 2008 and April 2009. A further assessment was made together with the ICRC and Qatar Red Crescent to see the possibilities for post-war rehabilitation (including reconstruction of houses and provision of livestock) in support of the displaced people, especially those with little or no means to cater for their needs.

On 24 October 2008, flash floods in Hadramout and Al Amhara caused extensive damages in terms of loss of lives and properties. The Yemen RC responded swiftly mobilizing assistance through the International Federation and PNSs. The National Society is assisting up to 1,500 families (10,500 beneficiaries) in Hadramout and the ongoing operation includes the provision of key relief and recovery items including food, clothing and medicines. In December alone, the Yemen RC and the International Federation carried out 17 distributions consisting of food and non-food relief items in Tarim, Hawra, Seyoun and Al Qaten reaching up to 2,332 families (16,324 beneficiaries). A revised Emergency Appeal has been launched at the beginning of December based on a gradual scaling down of the relief phase and a shift towards recovery including water and sanitation.

The Yemen RC disaster management staff and volunteers participated in different workshops and conferences including the regional meeting on contingency plans, risk reduction and the Hyogo framework in Morocco; the regional disaster management and risk reduction meeting held in Egypt; training of trainers for risk reduction organized in Jordan, and a road safety seminar in Qatar organized by the global road safety network. The Yemen RC is also a member of the International Federation Middle East and North Africa (MENA) disaster management network.

Constraints or Challenges

The main challenge the National Society faces is ensuring rapid access in time of emergencies. This is due to the topography of the country. To overcome this challenge, building up local level capacity is being addressed by establishing basic preparedness stocks in branches located in disaster prone governorates. The emerging focus on local level risk reduction will also mitigate the effects of disasters, maximizing the use of local capacities and increasing community resilience.

The National Society needs to address the challenge of selecting staff and volunteers based on strict criteria. Focus has to be given to people with relevant background and motivation to ensure that participants in workshops contribute to the development of the National Society by making full use of the knowledge gained through workshops and seminars.

Health and Care

Outcomes/Expected results

- Outreach/community-based health activities are increased with adequate technical/operational support.
- Quality of health services is improved with Yemen RC contributing its share in the prevention of communicable diseases including HIV and AIDS.
- Integration of health during emergencies is improved, including psycho-social support and prevention and control of epidemics during disasters.

Achievements

A refresher course on community based first aid (CBFA) was organised at the headquarters in April for 30 participants (gender balanced) from the 15 Yemen RC branches. The participants were enabled to upgrade their knowledge and skills on CBFA and encouraged to carry out relevant activities in their respective branches. In cooperation with the Yemeni Women's Association, a training of trainers (ToT) on CBFA course was organized in May for 30 women from various social and professional sectors. The trained CBFA trainers are expected to train other members of the association according to the specific plans and needs. The Hajja Branch organized a special public event in connection with the International Day for First Aid (9 September). Attended by the governor of Hajja, the event was highlighted with speeches, plays and exhibitions.

A health awareness session was organized by the Taiz branch, facilitating the efforts of local social care institutions. A total of 60 participants (30 orphans and 30 juvenile delinquents) attended the training which focused on malaria prevention and control. The follow up activities on the community based health development programme (CBHDP) in Hajja, Abbs, with a multi-sectoral focus on primary health care (PHC), food security and literacy, included the facilitation of expanded programme of immunization (EPI) among women/children and the development of water supply schemes in Al Wasaf and Bani Hassan sub-districts.

The Yemen RC is introducing a new initiative within its health training activities to assist people living with HIV and AIDS. A special training workshop during 6-10 July on first aid was conducted, involving 25 volunteers and focusing on basic knowledge about prevention and control of HIV and AIDS. In addition, 35 people living with HIV and AIDS received training on CBFA and PSP with the necessary consultation provided by Yemen RC and the National Association for People Living with HIV and AIDS. The training was conducted in coordination with the National Programme to Combat AIDS, Ministry of Health and Population. The Yemen RC has engaged a local consultant to simplify and adapt the guidelines on HIV and AIDS in a way that can be more easily disseminated through Yemen RC branches and volunteers. The Yemen RC volunteers also participated in the promotion of the International Day for HIV and AIDS organized in Sana'a', with the specific events including a bicycle tour in the capital, orientation about HIV and AIDS involving 30 male and female participants, a football contest and a marathon (accompanied by a first-aid ambulance). During the event, the National Society conducted health awareness campaigns through mobile tents established in public parks to distribute health messages and brochures along with flash advertisement on newspapers focusing on prevention and control of HIV and AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

As a follow up to the psycho-social support session given to teachers and students of a school hit by mortar attacks, 30 participants from the school were trained on first aid including practical and theoretical knowledge. Psycho-social support services were also given to the victims and IDPs in the northern part of the country to overcome the psycho-social consequences of the conflict.

The Yemen RC coordinator participated in the Global Health Forum in Geneva between 13-17 May, and attended the regional psycho-social support programme meeting held by the MENA zone in Libya between 19-23 April. He also joined the health and care network meeting held in Tehran with the support of the International Federation as well as in the joint first aid workshop in Denmark organized by Danish RC.

Constraints or Challenges:

The main challenge in the health and care area is to ensure the focus towards preventive approaches without undermining the vital service provided by the network of the National Society's clinics including mother and child health. The growing focus on community based health development will enable the Yemen RC to ensure the required level of comprehensive approach in the prevention and control of diseases and epidemics in line with its Strategy for 2007-2011.

Capacity Development

Outcomes/Expected results

- Performance based on up to date legal base is improved.
- Capacities with increasing social mobilization including volunteer/membership base is increased.
- Prospects for gradual self-reliance with comprehensive resource development are enhanced.
- Gender balance at all levels (including policy making and programming) is improved.
- Participation of the youth at all levels is increased.

Achievements

The process of statutory review is approaching its completion. The ICRC representative in charge of cooperation is working together with the legal advisor (employed by the ICRC) and the National Society to finalize the draft which will be submitted to the joint Statutes Commission of the International Federation and the ICRC.

The National Society's official web site has been established in two versions - Arabic and English - and hosted on the World Wide Web under the address www.yerics.org¹. A webmaster has been trained to be in charge of updating and entering relevant information from branches and headquarters. The system will facilitate dissemination of the National Society mission, activities, membership, donation as well as exchange of information with a modern means of communication. The webmaster is receiving more information and update from branches to enrich the content and quality of the website.

With regards to ICB, the Yemen RC has taken the first step to create the ground level structures in consultation with the key stakeholders including the communities and local authorities. By the end of November, six new sub-branches were officially inaugurated and committees were selected - consisting of local community leaders and volunteers - in Sana'a (Manakha), Dahmar(Jahran), Hoidedah (Al Zuhra), Hajja(Midi) and Taiz (Shamatain and Sabr Al Mawadem). The next phase will focus on implementing relevant activities according to capacities and needs with increasing recruitment of volunteers and members.

A project planning process (PPP) training course was organized at the headquarters between 16-19 June. 25 volunteers and staff from headquarters involved in project planning in one way or another attended the workshop which was conducted by an external consultant with experience in facilitating PPP trainings in Arabic. By the end of the course, the trainees in five groups were able to design five different projects in disaster management and health reflecting the key planning principles and features. At branch level, a PPP course was conducted in Seyoun involving 30 volunteers (25 male and five female) as part of the branch capacity building in relation to the floods emergency operation in Hadramout.

To improve the performance of the Yemen RC, an overall management review has been conducted by an external consultant. The consultant visited the National Society between 5 and 14 September to mobilize the necessary information for the review. He had extensive discussions with National Society staff and volunteers at headquarters and branch levels. He also consulted with the key Yemen RC partners to enable them to share their views and concerns. The recommendations of the consultant will be discussed in the next partnership meeting at the beginning of 2009.

¹ Due to an administration problem, the website was temporarily not accessible. The issue is solved and the website is expected to re-run in due course.

The Secretary General of the National Society attended the Skill Share Conference at the beginning of September 2008. The conference was organized in London in cooperation with the International Federation and the British Red Cross to help National Societies exchange their experience in resource mobilization.

The youth coordinator from the Yemen RC and a representative from the International Federation office in Yemen participated in the branch development seminar in Norway jointly organized by the Norwegian and Swedish RC to enable practitioners in branch development to exchange experiences and lessons learnt in the different parts of the world. The youth coordinator also participated in the regional youth meeting organized by the MENA Zone in Jordan to review progress and challenges regarding youth participation in Red Cross/Red Crescent (RC/RC) plans and programmes.

Constraints or Challenges:

Increasing security concerns did not allow the organisational development/capacity building delegate to stay in the country and monitor implementation of the programmes. Attracting skilled personnel is a challenge, as the National Society's capacity to pay is very limited. Membership development is another constraint, as the process is suspended in almost all the branches related to the review of the statutes which has taken far too long to conclude.

Coordination and Field Management

Outcomes/Expected results

- Yemen RC is adequately supported to consolidate/expand strategic and operational partnerships.
- International Federation field capacities are strengthened to improve coherence, synergy and cost-effectiveness.
- Yemen RC strategy is effectively implemented with the International Federation facilitating the process of ICB matching with the expectation to scale up services.

Achievements:

The opportunities to work together under the OA were explored during the partnership meeting in April. The focus was on a common framework to ensure effective coordination and management, pooling financial, technical and human resources to build capacities within the new OA model.

The partners reconfirmed their commitment to supporting the implementation of the Yemen RC Strategy for 2007-2011, leading to scaling up capacities and services. Specific steps were agreed during the meeting:

More up to date legal base/amendment of statutes

The progress under this category is not as much as expected. The National Society has not still managed to finalize the amendment of the statutes in accordance with the comments from the joint Statutes Commission of the International Federation and ICRC. The ICRC cooperation officer, together with the legal adviser employed by the ICRC, is working to finalize the draft.

Overall management review involving external consultancy

This has been implemented and the recommendations by the consultant will be presented in the next partnership meeting at the beginning of 2009.

The need to address existing capacity gaps including additional personnel to strengthen the National Society and the International Federation Representation in Yemen

A programme manager for the community based health development and a coordinator for the International Federation have been employed. The need to further consolidate the National Society's managerial and technical capacity needs to be seen based on the recommendations of the management review.

Ensuring stronger coordination/communication with regular meetings and consolidated reporting

The long absence of key personnel/delegates during the reporting period has negatively impacted the monitoring of programmes including capacity building and CBHDP under the OA. The inherent tendency by some of the Yemen RC partners to avoid coordination continues to challenge the desire to ensure a more consistent and coherent approach in the planning and management of programmes in line with Yemen RC's Strategy for 2007-2011. This problem was more evident in the floods emergency operation the National Society launched to assist the flood victims in Hadramout. Some of the National Society's partners, especially from the Gulf region, were quick to respond but they were not prepared to coordinate efforts either bilaterally with the Yemen RC or through the International Federation Appeal.

The OA for Yemen was officially launched when the agreement was signed in Geneva in May between the Yemen RC and its current OA partners including the National Societies of Denmark, Norway and Sweden.

Working in partnership

The International Federation facilitated the meeting of the Yemen RC partners. Due to the security concerns in Yemen, the partnership meeting was conducted in Amman, Jordan, during 18 and 19 April. It provided a common platform for all Yemen RC partners, including bilateral and multilateral, to review collectively the consolidated programme portfolio of the National Society with results and resources framework for 2008 as part of the implementation of its Strategy for 2007-2011. In addition to the International Federation and the ICRC, the meeting was attended by the National Societies of Bahrain, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Qatar and Sweden. The opportunities to work together under the OA were explored focusing on a common framework to ensure effective coordination and management, pooling financial, technical and human resources to build capacities within the new OA model. In line with the commitments from the partnership meeting, the Yemen RC and its partners are closely working with increased synergies and complementarities based on the comparative advantages of each partner.

With the official launch of the OA, the process of partnership is gaining momentum towards a higher stage of cooperation with greater harmonization of objectives and procedures as well as greater impact, quality and outreach.

With its country office in Sana'a, the German RC has started to work with the Yemen RC with a focus on improvement of the health services provided through the National Society's network of clinics.

As part of the framework of cooperation on organisational development/capacity building which also includes exchange of experience between the Yemen RC and Danish RC, a delegation from Yemen RC consisting of eight persons (board members/staff) visited the Danish RC between 19 August and 1 September. As a follow up to the exchange visit, consultations are currently underway to establish a formal twinning between the Sana'a branch (Yemen RC) and the Alborg branch (Danish RC) to enable the two branches to work together on common issues including volunteer development and management. The cooperation between the two National Societies also envisages exchange between schools including the ones for people with hearing disabilities.

As part of the effort to strengthen partnerships with governmental and non-governmental authorities, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the Yemen RC and the Ministry of Water and Environment. The MoU seeks to enhance collaborative efforts to combat environmental disasters, coordinate preparedness/response, and exchange experience and resources. Another MoU was signed in August between Yemen RC and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) office in Yemen, concerning coordinated protection of refugees and asylum seekers in Yemen as well as cooperation to address issues related to IDPs due to armed conflicts.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The implementation of the ICB supported activities focusing on sub-branch development coupled with the increasing trend towards community based health and local level risk reduction will enable the Yemen RC to contribute more effectively towards longer term impact. The CBHDP supported through the OA is also designed to empower communities to address gender and equity perspectives and women are among the main targets of the programme with increasing participation at the level of planning and implementation.

Looking ahead

The overall development prospect of the Yemen RC depends on the consolidation of the following:

- Finalization of the review of the statutes with clear separation between governance and management roles and implementation of the recommendations of the management review.
- Consolidation of the efforts to develop outreach structures (sub-branches) with increasing focus on community health development and DRR at local level.

The increasing focus on local level risk reduction and community-based health development will enable the Yemen RC to contribute more substantially to the reduction of deaths due to disasters and diseases in line with its strategy and the Global Agenda goals of the International Federation. The focus on local level risk reduction and community-based health development will also create an environment for the National Society to develop a new cadre of volunteers at the grassroots, enhancing the prospect for increased sustainability and impact.

How we work	
<p>The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".</p>	<p>Global Agenda Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters. • Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies. • Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability. • Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.
Contact information	
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