

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

20 July 2006

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In Brief

Appeal No. MAAYE001

Programme Update no. 1

Period covered: 1 January to 31 May 2006

Appeal target 2006/2007: CHF 3,626,081 (USD 2,904,465 or EUR 2,319,170)

Appeal coverage 2006/2007: 15 % [Click here for the interim financial report to date](#)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:

Yemen Annual Appeal 2006/2007. For details, please go to the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual06/MAAYE001.pdf

Yemen Floods DREF Bulletin. For details, please go to the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?06/MDRYE001.pdf

Annual Appeals 2006/2007 for Middle East and North Africa region. For details please see the website at <http://www.ifrc.org/where/mena.asp>

Programme Summary:

During this reporting period, the Yemeni Red Crescent Society (YRCS) focused on implementing planned activities as well as taking actions necessitated by natural disasters. Floods following heavy rains in several areas demanded a timely response. The National Society (NS) coordinated relief activities with other local and international organizations, including needs assessments, rescue, distribution of relief items, health care and camp establishment and management.

As for the planned activities, there were several trainings, renovation of health centres, participation in workshops and network meetings, HIV/AIDS awareness campaign, strategic planning and other activities. The programme impact on beneficiaries is reflected on the growing knowledge and skills of staff and volunteers, enhanced visibility of the NS in disaster response, improved health services as a result of renovation of clinics and most importantly strengthened partnerships and coordination means.

The budget has been revised from CHF 3,442,000 to CHF 3,626,081, as can be seen in the attached interim financial report. The amount under the Organisational Development (OD) Programme has changed by adding CHF 179,000 to cover Danish Red Cross OD project activities. In addition, CHF 8,000 was added for the completion of the computer for branches project which is money carried forward from 2005 CBF funds. At the same time, the Federation representative's support costs were moved from OD to the Coordination and Implementation Programme. During the reporting period, the main donors have been DFID (CHF 31,433), Swedish Red Cross (CHF 42,500) and Danish Red Cross (CHF 10,126).

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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. 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 first half of 2006 was characterized by relative stability. However, the Delegation and National Society operations were influenced by socio-political, economic and natural events of varying levels of intensity.

The second presidential election is scheduled to be held next September. This event represents a milestone in Yemen's political history and democratisation process. It is a significant event to the country's development partners who are looking for credible commitment to improving the policy and institutional environment.

Despite the slight improvement in the economical level, inflation has risen by 20 per cent, having been stable for the past three years at 12 per cent. The reason was attributed to the removal of subsidies on petroleum products last year. In its recent Economic Update, the World Bank stated that the macroeconomic outcomes helped by high oil prices in 2005 turned out to be better than expected, the GDP growth improved (close to four per cent), smaller overall fiscal deficit at 2.4 per cent of GDP, and a continued current account surplus were the favorable macroeconomic outcomes. On the aid front, the update mentioned that the past year was negatively affected by poor policy and portfolio performance in 2004. The International Development Agency of the World Bank reduced its assistance by 34 per cent for 2006-2008 because of the weakening of Yemen's relative performance against 2004 Country Policy and Institutional Assessment indicators and deterioration of performance in IDA-funded projects.

Due to the security situation following the drawings published by a Danish newspaper, the Federation Representative and the Danish Project Coordinator were instructed to leave the country on 2 February. A slowdown in project implementation was inevitable, but was alleviated by constant contact and close consultation between Yemen Office, the Representative abroad and the Regional Office as well as cooperation of Yemen Red Crescent Society (YRCS) staff and volunteers. The Federation Representative returned to Yemen in late February just in time to catch up with relief operations in two flood disasters.

In these circumstances, the YRCS has been actively performing its roles and implementing programmes in all core areas including health and care, disaster management and organizational development. Particular emphasis has been on the capacity building of volunteers and staff at the Headquarters (HQ) and branch levels providing them with the right tools and proper training to enable them to carry out duties.



The heavy rains that resulted in floods in Yemen caused great devastation due to lack of proper infrastructure and weakly constructed houses on lower lands

The reporting period witnessed frequent flash floods where the DM department has shown timely and adequate response through coordination with partners, field assessments and relief and shelter provision according to formal standards. The Health department carried out its planned activities including renovation of branch clinics, procurement of medical equipment as well as training in relevant health areas. Close cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) continued to ensure timely information and dissemination activities including publication of YRCS periodical magazines and leaflets.

Health and Care

Overall goal:

Improved general health and psychological wellbeing of vulnerable communities through an increasing focus on disease prevention and health promotion with a concept of shared responsibility for health care between YRCS, authorities and the community.

Programme objective:

Strengthened NS capacity for improved public health services and prevention of communicable diseases with growing focus on diseases affecting children and strengthened NS services, including prevention, in health services to vulnerable communities.

Progress and achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The second Community Based First Aid (CBFA) training of trainers (TOT) workshop was held in Taiz with 22 trainees from different YRCS branches and trainers from the Danish Red Cross Project.

Another CBFA Trainer of Trainers workshop was held in Aden for the local CBFA network leaders. This training was complementary to a previous 50 hours course that did not cover the public health module. A total of 31 participants successfully completed the course (one male and one female from each branch). One branch representative failed to participate.

The YRCS plans to enhance its capacity in CBFA and to increase the number of trained volunteers. Twenty trainees from all branches participated in a six day CBFA training workshop held in Taiz, with seventeen passing the final assessment examination. There has been a discussion on the importance of involving branch trainers in conducting such courses independently, though in coordination and with technical advice from HQ Health Department.

The implementation of the health education programme on ways of transmission and prevention of HIV/AIDS, targeting the youth at school level has started in Taiz. The programme is being implemented by branch staff, and so far, four hundred Secondary School students in Taiz city have benefited from the programme.

During the first days of the two flood disasters, the YRCS Health Department was involved in timely visits to the affected people. On 23 February, the Health Officer provided emergency health care and medications to the sick cases among the evacuees in Ma'bar. Similarly in Lahj flooded area, Aden branch sent a physician to the area to

assess the health situation of the affected people and to provide urgent health care. *(For more details of the flood disasters, see the Disaster Management section of this report)*

In response to the flood disaster in Ma'bar, Dhamar Governorate, the YRCS Health Officer visited the affected area to assess the health situation and provide needed health care. A total of 82 patients were examined and treated, most of them children. The most common cases included upper respiratory tract infection and gastritis. Medicines were procured from Sana'a and taken to the affected area by the health team to be distributed to the patients. The remaining medicines were kept at the branch for treatment of new cases.

The YRCS Health Officer participated in a seminar on emergency medical practices, organized by the Higher Council for Mother and Child, and a workshop on legalization of medical practices in Emergencies, also organized by the Higher Council for Mother and Child with support from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The second regional HIV/AIDS network meeting was held in Amman. The Health Officer and the HIV/AIDS Programme Coordinator from YRCS participated in the meeting along with twelve NSs from the region. The meeting was an opportunity to exchange experiences and knowledge, and produced the recommendation to increase communications with the regional office to share these experiences and activities with other NSs more frequently.

The YRCS aims to establish a local Psychological Support team and training of trainers. A total of 31 volunteers successfully completed a basic training course organized in YRCS HQ in Sana'a in March, facilitated by trainers from Sana'a University and the Regional PSP Coordinator. The trainees and trainers carried out field visits to Al Dhafir village and Ma'bar city for practical exercises and to provide psychological support to families who were afflicted by landslide and floods. Selection of the trainees took into consideration gender balance. A complementary training workshop covering the remaining topics including methods of training and some psychological themes shall be held later this year.

By April, the renovation process of all selected branch clinics was finalized except for Mahweet, whose leadership requested to abandon the assigned engineer and handle the task themselves. Also, no maintenance has been done in Mabyan sub-branch due to a difference between the local contractor and the engineer (hired by the Federation). The allocated funds had been deducted from the engineer's last payment when clearing the work advance.

After analysing bids offered by local companies two were selected to provide medical equipment and appliances. By mid May all items were delivered to the HQ warehouse, which will then be installed in the branches according to list of needs prepared at an earlier stage.

The Health Department, headed by YRCS Health Officer, continued its efforts in health awareness to the general public and providing related training in line with the NS health strategy. The Department is currently in the process of preparing different types of brochures and leaflets to disseminate health messages related to current health risks within the country. A total of 20,000 leaflets were printed and are ready for dissemination to target groups, branches and partner institutions. Additionally, 10,000 leaflets were designed and printed with basic instructions on CBFA. All YRCS trainees and volunteers will benefit from these educational materials either in training or as quick reference.

The Health Department maintained its distinctive presence in health national events. A training workshop on treatment of severe and acute malnutrition as a major health concern in Yemen was held in Aden. The workshop was organized by the Health Ministry and UNICEF. The YRCS Health Officer and two participants from Aden branch participated in the workshop and received relevant weighing scales and measuring equipment for their branch health clinic.

Impact

Frequent training results in more skilled staff and volunteers at HQ and branch level with strong knowledge on such areas as CBFA and psychological support. Partnerships and cooperation with the Health Ministry, local and international health related organizations have been strengthened and developed through close coordination and participation in bilateral activities.

The better physical and hygienic appearance of branch clinics encourage health staff and volunteers to provide better services, and attract increasing numbers of patients.

Constraints

Difficulty in hiring the right engineer and contractor to perform maintenance work at branches was a problem. Some branches showed little cooperation with the engineer, who had demanded frequent field visits to follow-up on implementation and progress.

There is only one Health Officer at the HQ who is responsible of all health projects. He faces difficulties in coordination and following up with several partners and 18 health clinics at YRCS branches. It is important to hire one more staff to assist in supporting office functions giving space for the health officer to concentrate more on health management and implementation.

Shortage of funds hampered the on-going and planned activities especially training sessions. Difficulties during the procurement process of medical items resulted from the unavailability of all required items at one place/dealer. The procurement process had to be repeated twice to ensure conformity with standards.

Disaster Management

Overall goal:

Disaster management capacity of YRCS has been increased, thus allowing them to effectively increase resilience and reduce vulnerability of populations exposed to natural and man-made hazards.

Programme Objectives:

Strengthen DM capacity related to human resource development and effective use of DM tools.

Strengthen disaster management units with emphasis on DM planning and programming.

Enhance NS preparedness and response capacity related to armed conflicts and their effects.

Progress and achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

During this reporting period, three training workshops were conducted on the Minimum Standards on Disaster Response (Sphere Project). The first was for 26 volunteers and staff from branches and HQ. The second was dedicated for YRCS Executive Council and leadership, while the third targeted 26 female members.

A specialized computer programme was developed to enhance proficiency of handling, maintaining and exchanging information related to disasters in Yemen. Members from six branches (Dhamar, Ibb, Abyan, Hodeidah, Hajjah and Mahweet) were trained on using the database software and received new computer sets.

The DM officer conducted a 10-day field visit to Hadramaut governorate. He was delegated by Secretary General to meet officials there to discuss the possibility of establishing a new branch in Sayeoun city- the valley and desert. He also explored the potentials of conducting various activities in the field of disaster preparedness and response.

There have been a number of training courses since January. One was on Sphere standards, with YRCS President, Secretary General and Federation Representative present; a regional DM training workshop organized by Islamic Relief Office in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior- Civil Defence and UNDP for 50 civil societies from Yemen and several other Arab countries; two focal DM officers and one admin staff participated in a DM camp in Doha, Qatar; and participants from HQ, Sana'a and Baidah branches went to a DM training camp held in Sweida, Syria, on DM main concepts and tools.

The DM unit has been revised according to the VCA findings. An external consultant was hired to compile a relevant contingency plan of action. The draft was finalized and is being reviewed by the NS, who now have a clear mandate according to a clear policy within the national plan and have become a key member of the Higher Council for DM. In June, a new part-time DM field officer will be hired to assist with increasing DM tasks and coordinate field activities with branches, leaving the other DM Officer to be more involved with cooperation and partnerships with governmental, local and international organizations.



YRCS volunteers and staff of the national intervention team were deployed to the area affected by the floods to provide rescue and distribute relief supplies to evacuees

Apart from the planned activities and programmes within Appeal 2006-2007, prompt action was needed to respond to natural disasters within the NS mandate and in coordination with other key partners like the Civil Defence, Oxfam and other organizations.

A major flash flood occurred on 20 February due to heavy rain that affected Ma'bar city (population of Ma'bar- 24,700 persons), 100 Km south Sana'a. Two men and one child were killed, and more than 60 houses destroyed or partially damaged. A second flood followed just a few days after the first one in Lahj Governorate in the southern part of Yemen, caused great devastation exacerbated by poverty and lack of proper infrastructure and weakly constructed houses on lower lands and in some cases right on the streams of the flowing rain waters. The district of Jahran, Dhamar governorate was hit by flash floods hit again

YRCS volunteers and staff of the national intervention team, were deployed to the affected area to conduct needs assessment, provide rescue and distribute relief supplies to evacuees (food items, blankets and mattresses) in the operations. NS worked closely with relevant government and other international organizations to help those in need.

Impact

The intervention of YRCS in several flash flood disasters has enhanced the visibility of the NS as a key player in relief and disaster response operations. Many vulnerable communities benefited from relief and shelter provided by YRCS in Ma'bar Camp which is constructed and managed by the DM department in collaboration with Dhamar branch. Knowledge on Sphere standards was strengthened among volunteers, staff, administration and leadership through well planned workshops.

Constraints

In some cases, the selection of participants for specialized DM training is not successful. For example, two accountants from HQ and Sana'a branch were selected to participate in an advanced DM training held in Syria last May. These candidates did not have the proper background to build on and benefit the NS DM capacity. This issue was discussed with the Secretary General emphasizing that candidates should be carefully selected according to standards and conditions.

Due to the lack of funds on some occasions activities had to be postponed for later dates causing some conflict and coincidence with events and activities. It all hampered the efficient progress of implementation according to plans.

Organisational Development

Overall goal:

Yemen Red Crescent Society provides improved services based on increased organizational and operational capacities.

Programme Objective:

Effective development and use of human resources as well as systems and procedures.

Progress and achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The YRCS Secretary General and Federation Representative made a field visit to Al-Dhafir village to monitor the distribution process of relief items donated by UNICEF. They met the Head of the Distribution Committee and

checked lists of beneficiaries. They also viewed the location of the landslide and met people from the local community. The NS is working to strengthen its relationship with all potential donors and partners and gain credibility through transparent administrative procedures.

By the end of February all branches have been provided with the means and access to utilize the internet. After securing a new telephone line, a subscription contract was signed by each branch with the internet service provider in Yemen. Previously two persons from each branch had attended 100 hours of computer training to ensure fruitful use of the new equipment and internet service.

The implementation of the leadership programme was regular. The two leadership members from Dhamar had completed the third module of Leadership training, which was organized in Beirut, Lebanon. Now another member (President of Hajjah branch) had been nominated for this term of leadership training. He had already completed the first module in Geneva.

With assistance from the former Regional Office Programme Assistant, preparation for the strategy meeting has been done in a professional manner. A task force was formed in each area consisting of a focal person and five other members. The meeting came up with work plans in each of the core areas including health, disaster management, organizational development, and principles and values and also featured a presentation on the Federation of the Future. The task force groups worked on identifying the priorities and preparing project proposals following the Project Planning Process methodology. The YRCS strategy draft was also reviewed by all participants who brought up many questions and amendments regarding the text and content, and to send further comments to Regional Delegation.

During May the YRCS President and Secretary General visited the Danish Red Cross and the Swedish Red Cross. These visits to Denmark and Sweden had great significance in strengthening the cooperation and partnership between YRCS and two of the most important Partner National Societies. Areas of future cooperation and priorities in health and DM were discussed with the Swedish RC.

Three new branches were officially inaugurated, expanding the reach of YRCS to cover 15 of the 22 governorates of the Republic of Yemen. That was made possible by leadership determination and bilateral support of French Red Cross to the new branch in Shabwa and the major role of the Italian Red Cross in establishing a branch on the remote island of Socotra.

Impact

Easier access to information and exchange of mails between branches and HQ, as well as better organizational capacities has been achieved, thanks to the new equipment and training on computer and internet use.

Strategic plan for the years 2006-2007 is being revised and will come out soon. More leadership members are gaining important skills and knowledge, which will be used to build the NS capacity and organizational structure.

More branches were established with expectation of increase of members and volunteers at the national level.

Constraints

More Project Planning Process (PPP) training is desperately needed at all levels of YRCS, with follow-up also essential to fully absorb the process and implement it as a standard proposal planning tool. Poor project proposals hindered the timely implementation of a Gender workshop. The proposal was not result oriented and the objectives were not clear. Target groups had to be modified to reach more and new categories of society.

Coordination and Implementation/Humanitarian Values

Progress and achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The YRCS organized a seminar on the International Movement of the Red Cross/Red Crescent, targeting a large number of students from Sana'a University, Faculty of Medicine. The event was sponsored by the Canadian Development Project in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Sana'a University. The Federation Representative and ICRC Head of Delegation made a detailed presentation addressing basic issues such as history

of the Movement, fundamental principles, YRCS development, ICRC roles and International Humanitarian Law (IHL).

The Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Organization organized an orientation workshop addressing issues related to the International Humanitarian Law and the RC/RC principles. Five YRCS representatives participated and the Federation supported their travel expenses. The Secretary General Assistant for Information and Youth took part in the Middle East and North Africa Information Officers network meeting that was held in Cairo in late May.

The International Day of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, 8 May, was celebrated with an open debate on the RC/RC directed by answering questions raised by the audience.

Issues of Al-Ithar, YRCS's main publication, were issued (every two months). The magazine maintained its usual format though an improvement was expected to take place. The ICRC continued its support to this magazine as well as other monthly and bimonthly leaflets issued at branch level.

Impact

Stronger visibility of YRCS as well as better understanding among the public of the RC/RC principles and values and the history of the movement.

Constraints

There are few staff and volunteers who are trained in information and journalism. More efforts are needed to enhance the NS capacity in information and communication. In addition, there is no clear NS information and communication plan where priorities for support are identified. Clear plan of action need to be drawn based on the NS strategy for information and communication.

[Interim financial report below; click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAAYE001 - YEMEN

Interim financial report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2006/5
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
Appeal	MAAYE001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget	1'137'865	778'496	0	1'664'459	45'261	3'626'081
B. Opening Balance	150'769	178'881	0	139'455	0	469'105
Income						
Cash contributions						
DFID Partnership		31'433				31'433
C1. Cash contributions		31'433				31'433
Outstanding pledges (Revalued)						
Saudi Arabian Red Crescent S	-7'731					-7'731
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)	-7'731					-7'731
Inkind Personnel						
Danish Red Cross				10'126		10'126
Swedish Red Cross					42'500	42'500
C5. Inkind Personnel				10'126	42'500	52'626
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	-7'731	31'433	0	10'126	42'500	76'328
D. Total Funding = B + C	143'038	210'314	0	149'581	42'500	545'433

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	150'769	178'881	0	139'455	0	469'105
C. Income	-7'731	31'433	0	10'126	42'500	76'328
E. Expenditure	-117'595	-125'427		-98'994	-45'263	-387'279
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	25'443	84'887	0	50'587	-2'763	158'154

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAAYE001 - YEMEN

Interim financial report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2006/5
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
Appeal	MAAYE001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)		1'137'865	778'496	0	1'664'459	45'261	3'626'081	
Supplies								
Shelter			25				25	-25
Construction	147'960	15'689	4'839				20'528	127'432
Clothing & textiles	25'095		9'436				9'436	15'659
Water & Sanitation	97'416		8				8	97'408
Medical & First Aid		44'474	1'559				46'033	-46'033
Teaching Materials	37'066							37'066
Total Supplies	307'537	60'163	15'866				76'029	231'508
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Computers & Telecom	154'081		1'936				1'936	152'145
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	64'276							64'276
Medical Equipment	57'915							57'915
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	276'272		1'936				1'936	274'336
Transport & Storage								
Storage			437				437	-437
Transport & Vehicle Costs	139'920	4'724	4'832		3'181		12'737	127'183
Total Transport & Storage	139'920	4'724	5'269		3'181		13'174	126'746
Personnel Expenditures								
Delegates Payroll	352'100		180		81		260	351'840
Delegate Benefits	151'200	3'051	6'916		18'680	42'500	71'146	80'054
National Staff	103'600	1'574	7'841		838		10'254	93'346
National Society Staff	480'801	2'006	16'600		27'335		45'940	434'861
Consultants	92'388							92'388
Total Personnel Expenditures	1'180'089	6'630	31'537		46'934	42'500	127'601	1'052'488
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	1'161'037	24'713	41'607		47'672		113'992	1'047'045
Total Workshops & Training	1'161'037	24'713	41'607		47'672		113'992	1'047'045
General Expenditure								
Travel	115'220	3'292	15'644		689		19'625	95'595
Information & Public Relation	150'082	39	559				598	149'484
Office Costs	46'010	257	1'494		800		2'551	43'459
Communications	14'400	51	1'663		1'620		3'334	11'066
Professional Fees					77		77	-77
Financial Charges		9'955	11'001		-889		20'067	-20'067
Other General Expenses			38				38	-38
Total General Expenditure	325'712	13'595	30'399		2'297		46'291	279'421
Program Support								
Program Support	235'514	7'644	8'153		6'392	2'763	24'951	210'563
Total Program Support	235'514	7'644	8'153		6'392	2'763	24'951	210'563
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		127	-9'339		-7'481		-16'694	16'694
Total Operational Provisions		127	-9'339		-7'481		-16'694	16'694
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	3'626'081	117'595	125'427		98'994	45'263	387'279	3'238'802
VARIANCE (C - D)		1'020'270	653'069		1'565'464	-2	3'238'802	