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Information bulletin

Yemen/MENA: Flash floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Date of issue: 17 April 2016

Date of disaster : 13 and 14 April 2016

Host National Society: Yemen Red Crescent Society (YRCS)

Number of people affected: Approximately 24,000 people, number may change after assessments.

This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Yemen Red Crescent Society (YRCS), with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), will request a DREF once initial assessments and immediate needs information is available.



A YRCS Amran branch volunteer assessing damage caused by the heavy rainfall. Source:YRCS

The situation

On 13 and 14 April, 2016, heavy rainfall initiated widespread flooding that swept across at least five governorates in Yemen killing at least 20 people and affecting more than 4,000 families (24,000 people) in seven governorates (Al Hudaydah, Amran, Hajjah, Sana'a, Al Hudaydah, Amran, Hajjah, Sana'a, Al Mahwit, Aden, and Marib) in Yemen. The floods have caused severe damage to vital infrastructure, property, livestock and crops. Security officials report that small dams have also collapsed as a result including two in Hajjah and Amran governorates.

In **Amran governorate** the two districts of Amran and Jabal Yazid were severely affected. It is estimated that in more than 800 families in Amran district, and 220 families in Jabal Yazid district are now without shelter as a

result of the destruction of their houses by the floods. There was widespread destruction of both asphalt and dirt roads, cutting off thousands of people, drowning of livestock including cattle and chicken, spread of garbage all over the flooded areas and contaminating water sources. A needs assessment and registration of the affected families is currently underway.

Over 200 families have been severely affected and lost their homes and have been moved to seven schools.

In Sharis district of **Hajjah governorate** flash floods and rockslides have caused devastation. Bait Qadama area was totally cut off from other districts as a result of road destruction by the flood waters. A total of 12 people were reported to have been killed including three women and six children. In the higher areas of Sharis, four houses were reported to have been totally destroyed, five partially destroyed. Household furniture was lost, food stocks were washed away, livestock was lost, crops (coffee farms) destroyed and a water project was destroyed.

In Hodeida governorate the affected districts were Al Zuhrah and Al Luhayh where 19 villages were affected, 8 people killed, 2,000 houses suffered complete or partial damage, and farm lands swept away. Malaria and dengue fever are expected to be spread. The Ministry of Health has sent a medical team for assessments. People are in urgent need of shelter, food, drinking water and medicines.

In Sanaa governorate, Bani Matar area, Al Hadab sub-district, Al Usha village; A total of 15 houses have collapsed, and five half damaged and may collapse any time, leaving 35 families affected.

In Aden flooding occurred in Al Breqah districts. This area has around 200 internally displaced families (1,200 people) who were displaced very recently and are highly vulnerable.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Yemen Red Crescent (YRCS) were among the first responders in most of the affected governorates, and a summary of their operations are as follows:

Amran governorate:

- YRCS took part in an emergency coordination meeting that was held at the Amran executive office on 14 April. Other organisations who participated in the meeting include the Danish Refugee Council, the Norwegian Refugee Council, Save the Children and CARE
- An initial needs assessment is underway
- Registration of affected families have started
- Evacuation of 200 families to schools was done
- Non Food items (NFIs) have been distributed to 40 families who are sheltered at schools

Hajjah governorate

- A volunteers' teams in Sharis district was formed on the same day of the disaster
- An initial needs assessments was conducted
- First Aid services were provided to the affected in the same night of the disaster
- Relief and shelter items were distributed (20 tents, 100 blankets, 100 mattresses, 20 kitchen sets, 20 jerry cans).

The YRCS assessment team could not reach Bait Qadam yet due to damaged roads

Hodeidah governorate

- YRCS are part of the team conducting shelter and NFIs needs assessments in Alluheyah and Az Zuhrah districts
- Relief items were sent: They included tents and blankets by Executive Unit of IDPs, MSF. YRCS Hodeida branch is coordinating with Local Authority. Some people still need more assistance like food, drinking water and medicines.

Sana'a governorate

- A needs assessment is being undertaken in Dharawan area, Hamadan district. Preliminary results from the assessment indicate the need for NFIs and emergency shelter.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.