



YEMEN

2023 IFRC network country plan

Funding Requirement **CHF 47.1M**

Appeal number **MAAYE001**

In support of the Yemen Red Crescent Society



22

National Society branches



454

National Society staff



5,355

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



31,000

Ongoing emergency operations



10,000

Climate and environment



676,000

Disasters and crises



914,000

Health and wellbeing



2,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multiyear focus

Emergency response

- acute humanitarian needs - protracted crisis

Longer term needs

- health • water, sanitation and hygiene
 - disaster risk management
 - protracted displacement
 - climate change adaptation

Capacity development

- branch development • volunteer management
 - security management
- internal systems strengthening

Key country data

Population **30.5M**

INFORM severity rating **very high**

Climate ND-GAIN Index rank **28**

Human Development Index rank **179**

Hazards



Conflict



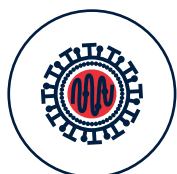
Population movement



Poverty



Food insecurity



Epidemics

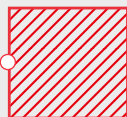


Climate change

Funding requirements

Total 47.1M CHF

Through the IFRC



6.3M CHF

Through Participating National Societies



11.9M CHF

Host National Society



28.9M CHF

IFRC Breakdown

424,000 M CHF

Ongoing emergency operations

Longer term needs

50,000 CHF

Climate and environment

2.2M CHF

Disasters and crises

1.7M CHF

Health and wellbeing

50,000 CHF

Values, power and inclusion

2M CHF

Enabling local actors

Participating National Societies

British Red Cross

The Canadian Red Cross Society

Danish Red Cross

Finnish Red Cross

German Red Cross

Italian Red Cross

Japanese Red Cross Society

The Netherlands Red Cross*

Norwegian Red Cross

Qatar Red Crescent Society

Swedish Red Cross

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The Yemen Red Crescent Society is a key humanitarian actor in Yemen, with a well-recognized presence throughout the country. It was first established in South Yemen in 1968 and in North Yemen in 1970, and the two were later integrated as one National Society in 1993 after the unification of Yemen. The Yemen Red Crescent Society has ongoing programmes in health, water, sanitation and hygiene, food security and disaster preparedness and risk reduction. It also provides humanitarian relief to the most vulnerable, especially those affected by conflict and disasters.

In its auxiliary role to the Yemen Government, the National Society regularly supports the authorities to respond to emergencies such as floods, drought and disease outbreaks, and with the transportation of injured people. It works in close coordination with its International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners located in Yemen, and those providing remote support.

In 2021, the Yemen Red Crescent Society implemented several interventions across the country, in response to disasters, disease outbreaks, and continued to address the existing needs of vulnerable communities. These included:

- 2,387,000 people in response to, and protection against, the COVID-19 pandemic
- 578,000 people with cash assistance
- 421,000 people to access primary health care services
- 420,000 people with food aid and livelihood support
- 320,000 people through supporting government hospitals and health centres
- 307,000 people to access safe water by installing water points
- 285,000 people with the distribution of non-food items
- 31,000 people affected by floods and rockslides
- 30,000 people with campaigns on mine and explosive remnants of war awareness
- 15,000 people through restoring family links services
- 4,000 wounded and injured people with first aid and health care services
- 518 staff and volunteers with technical sectoral training
- 525,000 people through other programmes and projects

The National Society's vision is to be a model response organization within the Middle East region, providing integrated humanitarian services to affected communities before, during and after disasters. It has a clear mission to relieve human suffering, protect human lives and dignity, and respond to humanitarian needs in emergency situations. Its commitment to its role as a far-reaching humanitarian organization is built into its Strategic Plan for 2022–2026, which outlines three strategic priorities:

- Timely, coordinated and effective emergency humanitarian assistance is delivered to communities affected by disasters, crises and climate change
- Community resilience is built and enhanced by delivering integrated services and assistance with sustainable humanitarian response
- The Yemen Red Crescent Society is a strong National Society that engages in effective partnerships and ensures enhanced financial sustainability

The Yemen Red Crescent Society will deliver on its mission in the main areas of disaster and crises management, including food insecurity, health and care, water, sanitation and hygiene. The National Society incorporates the cross-cutting themes of community engagement and accountability, and protection, gender and inclusion, into all sectors.

Under its Strategic Plan for 2022–2026, the Yemen Red Crescent Society has set itself several ambitious goals for enhancing its capacity to better respond to the widespread multiple needs of the Yemeni population. The National Society is aware of its limitations, and motivated to strengthen its existing technical and resource capacities to fulfill these goals, with the support of the Movement and other partners. The Yemen Red Crescent Society builds National Society development into its administration and management, and this guides its work overall.

Through its sectoral interventions in emergencies and non-emergency situations, the Yemen Red Crescent Society aims to support 5.1 million households in need of essential goods and services between 2022 and 2026. This will involve the assistance of 30,000 youth and volunteers, and 3,000 Yemen Red Crescent Society staff members providing support in programming, organizational development and administration.

Joint situational analysis

One of the world's worst humanitarian crises is happening in Yemen. After seven years of ongoing conflict, there are 23.4 million people in need, 12.9 million of whom are in acute need. Continuous fighting has damaged infrastructure and broken up families, putting civilians at risk and causing deaths and injuries. Since the conflict began, nearly 6 million people have been forced from their homes, and now Yemen has the fifth-largest number of internally displaced people in the world.

The conflict has taken a severe toll on civilians and the economy. 20 million people now live in extreme poverty and 21.9 million people need health services, 12.6 million of whom are in acute need. In terms of water, sanitation, and hygiene, 17.8 million people are in need of assistance, 11.2 million of whom are in acute need. A staggering 19 million people needed food assistance in 2022, with 7.3 million on the brink of starvation. Meanwhile, 8.5 million children continue to lack education opportunities and 17.2 million people are in need of protection.

The general health of the Yemeni people continues to deteriorate due to the country's decimated public health system. Only 51 per cent of Yemen's health facilities operate at full capacity; the other 49 per cent are only partially operational or closed completely, with 11 per cent being completely or partially damaged. In addition, 117 of Yemen's 333 districts, or 35 per cent, have no working district-level hospitals, so there is also a lack of access to secondary health care. Even fully functional health facilities struggle to provide health services because of staff shortages, inadequate supplies and equipment, the inability to meet operational costs, and power outages caused by a lack of fuel.

Yemen is prone to natural hazards and experiences disasters, in particular flooding, on an annual basis. Its susceptibility to the effects of tidal surges, cyclones, drought and rising temperatures leads to a lack of water and reduced water quality, food insecurity, deteriorating health conditions, and displacement of vulnerable people. It is expected that climate change will make environmental disaster events more intense and frequent in the future.

The ongoing conflict in Yemen, large-scale displacement, flooding and economic decline have paved the way for more frequent outbreaks of communicable diseases. Without strong health care systems and water, sanitation and hygiene services, it is difficult to respond to, and mitigate the spread and effects of, these outbreaks.

Communities often engage in unhealthy coping mechanisms due to a lack of water, sanitation and hygiene services, water scarcity, limited resources and poor supply capacity. This leads to an increase in the risk of malnutrition and outbreaks of diseases such as cholera and acute watery diarrhoea.

Extreme temperatures, floods, landslides, rising sea levels and droughts are some of Yemen's climate-related risks. This natural environment makes it difficult to ensure food security and economic growth. On the ND-GAIN matrix, Yemen ranks 22 among those countries most at risk from climate change, and 180 among those best prepared to respond to it. On the INFORM Risk Profile Yemen is ranked as the world's fourth highest at-risk country, with a score of 8.1.

Heavy rains and widespread flooding swept across Yemen in July and August 2022, leading to loss of life and the destruction of property and livelihoods. The flooding also damaged essential infrastructure such as roads. Humanitarian actors estimate that more than 36,000 families were affected – most of whom live in relocation sites and settlements where their homes and sources of food and water were damaged.

Yemen's economic situation continues to worsen due to the prolonged conflict, the fragmentation of economic institutions, and conflicting and uncoordinated policy decisions. The additional factors of donor fatigue, rising global commodity costs due to the conflict in Ukraine and climate change, make Yemen's economic and social prospects beyond 2022 highly uncertain. Yemen's future hinges on the resolution of the conflict and overall security conditions, and in the meantime, it continues to depend on humanitarian assistance. Yemen has many different authorities across the country, making it highly challenging to carry out humanitarian activities in an efficient and coordinated manner.

Strategic priorities

Climate and environment

Natural hazards in Yemen are mainly hydrometeorological and impacted by climate change. Yemen experiences recurring droughts, floods and cyclones. Rainfall varies across its five main ecological zones from less than 50mm per year along the coast to more than 600mm per year in the mountainous plateaus. Temperatures also vary greatly, from below freezing during winter in the mountainous areas to above 36°C in the summer in the south.¹

Most of Yemen's land is either desert or undergoing desertification, and its water sources are mainly groundwater. The country is expected to face greater water scarcity and decreased water quality in the future. As climate change progresses, increased temperatures will contribute to faster and more widespread evaporation, depleting water sources even faster.

For the past three decades, temperatures in Yemen have been rising steadily and at a rate faster than the global average. In many places, temperatures are 2°C higher than they were before there was widespread knowledge of climate change; it is likely that this trend will continue, with an increase of 1.2 to 3.3°C expected by 2060.

Nationwide trends in precipitation are difficult to predict. This is because, in some areas, rainfall and storms have become heavier and more frequent – leading to flash floods and widespread flooding – while in other areas, an unprecedented lack of rain has caused intense droughts. The country is expected to face more extreme weather conditions with increased flooding and more droughts in the future. There will probably be very heavy rains between September and November. Furthermore, according to UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), sea levels are also projected to rise by up to 50cm by 2100.

Oil and agriculture are the two most important sectors of Yemen's economy. Agriculture, which uses highly traditional, rainfall-dependent and primitive methods, employs approximately 50 per cent of a population of more than 30 million people. Sudden bouts of intense rainfall and flash flooding destroys crops and vegetation, causes the loss of livestock and degrades the soil.

All of this has become more prevalent, as has damage to essential infrastructure such as irrigation systems and roads.

In coastal areas, a predicted increase in storm surges could destroy 50 per cent of Yemen's coast through erosion and floods, as well as damaging ecosystems. This in turn affects fishing communities and others living in coastal areas through loss of livelihoods, homes, property and life.

The rising intensity and frequency of drought and floods, along with the reduction of water sources and increased temperatures, represent the greatest threat to livelihoods, food security and human life in Yemen.

Main actions and areas of support

The Yemen Red Crescent Society is part of the IFRC Global Climate Resilience Programme, which aims to foster an unprecedented scale-up in locally led climate-smart disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts to prevent and reduce climate-related disaster impacts, and build community-level climate resilience. The programme aims to support 500 million people in 100 of the most climate-vulnerable countries, focusing on the least supported and marginalized communities. This holistic, multi-year programmatic approach consists of four operational pillars: (1) scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action and preparedness; (2) reducing the public health impacts of climate change; (3) addressing climate displacement; and (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

To help communities absorb, adapt and transform to climate change, the Yemen Red Crescent Society will systematically anticipate and integrate the short- and longer-term impacts of it into their programmes and operations. This includes the development of a climate change preparedness and response plan – in close collaboration with the IFRC, the authorities and participating National Societies – and the incorporation of environment and climate-related considerations as a cross-cutting theme across all programmes. These programmes include disaster risk reduction, water, sanitation and hygiene, livelihoods and protection interventions where young people are involved.

¹ Analysis in this section supported by the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre: <https://www.climatecentre.org/>

The National Society will also promote the adaptation of greener solutions, such as solar-powered energy in agricultural livelihoods schemes, and the use of more climate-resilient agricultural practices like drought resistant seeds and better irrigation systems. The IFRC will support the National Society to adopt climate-smart programming and promote environmentally sustainable practices in communities

The Yemen Red Crescent Society aims to ensure that its staff and volunteers have the knowledge and capacity to serve as agents of change, and take the necessary actions required to address climate-driven and environmental crises. To reach this goal, the IFRC will support the National Society with conducting capacity building activities with its staff and volunteers to improve their knowledge. Furthermore, it will integrate climate and environmental concerns into respective roles and responsibilities.

The National Society will become more involved in national discussions and potential climate change working groups. As a result, it will become recognized as a key partner that supports communities and government in scaling up climate action and working with the most at-risk communities. The Yemen Red Crescent Society will also foster collaborations with government, civil society organizations, the private sector, research institutes, academic institutions and other stakeholders. The aims of these collaborations will be to create, establish and implement innovative new programmes, and share learnings to further enhance and scale up climate action. The IFRC will support the Yemen Red Crescent Society in environment and climate change policy and advocacy work with the authorities and other humanitarian actors, at a national and governorate level.

Disasters and crises

For real-time information on emergencies, see [IFRC GO page Yemen](#)

Many of the hazards in Yemen are interrelated, producing multiple compound risks to affected areas and communities which, in turn, become even more exposed and more vulnerable to future disasters and crises. Climate and environmental degradation continue to change the nature and intensity of disasters and crises in Yemen. Between 2021 and 2022, the IFRC supported the Yemen Red Crescent Society in multiple flood response [operations](#) due to extreme weather events. Intense rainfall and short heavy storms have caused flooding and flash floods, which often resulted in soil degradation and

were followed by periods of drought. The frequency of storms is expected to increase as well.

Most of Yemen is considered at high risk of water scarcity, with the country's water crisis being among the worst in the world. Recent studies indicate that there are five fundamental causes of Yemen's water crisis: high population growth, inefficient agriculture, a lack of water abstraction regulation, the excessive use of water to grow qat crops, and intense droughts. Even in areas considered 'medium risk', droughts are expected every five years. It is expected that groundwater reserves will be depleted before 2050, with or without climate change. In addition to the expected 40 per cent loss of agriculture, the reduction in water for drinking and household use will almost inevitably lead to greater displacement and resettlement. The country has the lowest amount of water per capita in the world, with the area around the capital Sana'a the world's most water-stressed area. The city could run out of water due to a lack of rain, over-abstraction of groundwater and a growing population. Rising sea levels also continue to increase the risk of saltwater intrusion, further complicating the water crisis. When water is scarce, women and girls suffer the most, and the situation is sometimes used for political purposes.

It is estimated that approximately 19 million Yemenis do not have food security by the end of 2022. In 2021, 2.3 million children under the age of five suffered from acute malnutrition, 400,000 of whom faced severe acute malnutrition and a high risk of death. Declining agricultural productivity due to climate change-related drought is contributing towards food insecurity and malnutrition in Yemen, and this is compounded by the ongoing conflict and economic crisis.

Main actions and areas of support

The Yemen Red Crescent Society will support at-risk communities with reducing their vulnerability and exposure to hazards, and communicate actionable risk information with them. For communities in the 44 most at-risk districts, the National Society will implement the IFRC enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) process to further analyze the risks they face and identify actions to mitigate them.

The Yemen Red Crescent Society will also ensure that communities prepare for the timely and effective mitigation of, and response and recovery to, crises and disasters, including early action. It will develop and test simplified Early Action Protocols and plans for [anticipatory action](#) in the face of extreme weather and non-weather hazards.

These will use impact projections and include scenarios where several hazards are happening simultaneously. The National Society will establish trigger-based procedures and systems, and pilot anticipatory and forecast-based actions in communities. It will also set up early warning systems in two governorates.

To support people affected by crises and disasters, the Yemen Red Crescent Society will focus on implementing its cash and voucher assistance programme with three rounds per year, targeting six governorates. It will also carry out food security and livelihood programmes according to needs, and provide households with one-off unconditional cash transfers during emergency response operations. Where markets and services are disrupted, the National Society will ensure that people affected by crises and disasters receive timely and appropriate in-kind assistance.

To increase its disaster response capacity, the Yemen Red Crescent Society will train staff, volunteers and community members in branch and national disaster response. It will establish, equip and activate two disaster response hubs – one in the north of Yemen and one in the south – and maintain and expand its warehousing capacity by rehabilitating four existing warehouses and building three new ones. It will pre-position 50,000 rapid response food parcels and non-food and shelter items there. It will also purchase lifeboats for responding to emergencies at sea. The National Society will also establish emergency operations centres with radio rooms in 21 branches, and develop standard operating procedures and tools. It will set aside about CHF100,000 to be disbursed as emergency relief funds per year.

The **German Red Cross** plans to support disaster risk reduction activities. This includes contingency planning and stock, community-based disaster risk reduction, and preparedness for effective response, pending funding allocation. The German Red Cross will also consider supporting a cash and voucher assistance pilot scheme in 2023.

The **Norwegian Red Cross** plans to support the procurement of non-food items such as mattresses, blankets and kitchen sets, to address emergency situations such as flooding or population displacement.

The **Qatar Red Crescent Society** will support the Yemen Red Crescent Society by providing non-food items for emergency responses, and support its food security and livelihood programme with the distribution of food parcels and winterization kits.

The **IFRC** will work with the National Society on early warning systems and advancing anticipatory action in Yemen. It will also support the National Society with addressing food insecurity in highly vulnerable and food insecure areas (IPC4 and above) through the distribution of in-kind food parcels and food vouchers where appropriate. The IFRC, in coordination with the ICRC as the lead for cash preparedness in Yemen, will support the Yemen Red Crescent Society with the implementation of a plan of action for cash and voucher preparedness.

The IFRC, together with other Movement partners, will continue providing technical and financial support to the Yemen Red Crescent Society for emergency preparedness and response, with the aim of strengthening the National Society's capacity to perform their primary mandate in disaster management. This includes contingency planning at headquarters and branch level, and the pre-positioning of emergency stocks near branches to maintain a minimum response capacity for rapid distribution to affected communities in emergencies and disasters. The IFRC will provide technical guidance and resources for the implementation of the Yemen Red Crescent Society national emergency response fund, increasing contributions and improving its effectiveness. It will also support the National Society in gaining access to the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) to replenish emergency stocks, and other DREF modalities such as forecast-based financing.

Health and wellbeing

The health care sector in Yemen has deteriorated since the conflict began in 2015, and has worsened even further in recent years. The general health of the population is further affected by more frequent outbreaks of communicable and vector-borne diseases such as cholera, dengue, malaria and COVID-19, the increased risk of famine, and widespread severe malnutrition. Due to weakened immune systems, infectious diseases such as cholera spread more rapidly. New cholera outbreaks occur every year, and since 2016 more than half a million people in Yemen have contracted the disease. Disrupted water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) infrastructures contribute to the elevated risks. The disruption of vaccination services has also caused a surge in vaccine-preventable diseases.

Only about half the hospitals and health facilities are functioning, and even those are operating at nowhere near full potential. Yemen is facing a shortage of healthcare workers, beds, and other highly-demanded equipment like incubators.

Medicine warehouses and pharmaceutical factories have been destroyed, creating severe shortages that have transformed once-treatable conditions into insurmountable challenges.

Gaps in health care services have grave impacts for the most vulnerable, especially women and children. Yemen's maternal mortality ratio is one of the highest in the region at 164 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. Among children, the under-five mortality rate is 59.6 deaths per 1,000 live births, the infant mortality rate is 45.7 deaths per 1,000 live births, and the neonatal mortality rate is 28.1 deaths per 1,000 live births. UNICEF reports that every ten minutes one child in Yemen dies of a preventable disease.

With the healthcare system in disarray, the population is largely reliant on the humanitarian community for health services.

Yemen is a water-scarce country, and its water sources are highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Half its water is lost before it is drinkable. Approximately 56 per cent of the urban population and 44 per cent of people living in rural areas have reduced water coverage; this drops to 31 and 21 per cent with respect to sanitation service coverage. Most local water and sanitation providers can only offer reduced services, because of infrastructure damage, power outages, high fuel prices and sometimes a lack of fuel. A 2020 study in 13 provinces in the north and south of Yemen showed the collapse, demolition of, and damage to, more than 500 water and sanitation facilities.

The Yemen Red Crescent Society seeks to supplement the struggling health system by providing quality health care services at its primary health care centres and hospitals. Over the next five years, it aims to:

- Provide appropriate quality health care services for vulnerable populations in Yemen
- Support the health and dignity of affected communities in emergencies with access to health services
- Strengthen its capacities to deliver appropriate health interventions and address life-saving needs, and prepare for health in emergencies across all its health programmes

Through WASH interventions planned until 2026, the Yemen Red Crescent Society will ensure improved and permanent access to safe drinking water, through the rehabilitation and maintenance of existing water systems, building new water facilities, and providing water to the most affected communities and displaced persons.

It will support community initiatives for environmental sanitation in the most vulnerable areas, which will also help reduce the prevalence of water-borne diseases such as cholera. Its key objectives are:

- People affected by crises and disasters receive timely and appropriate WASH assistance, saving lives and reducing public health risks
- Sustainable National Society programming provides communities with improved, equitable and sustainable access to safe water for drinking and household use
- The Yemen Red Crescent Society has WASH capacities, mechanisms and resources in place, and is prepared to respond to a wide range of crises and disasters

Main actions and areas of support

To achieve these objectives, the Yemen Red Crescent Society will run its general hospital and 29 primary health care centres, and provide emergency health services through four mobile health clinics. It will upgrade three of its primary health care centres for comprehensive emergency obstetric care. The National Society will establish, equip and operate two mobile blood banks.

The Yemen Red Crescent Society will also conduct more than 2,000 community sensitization sessions with committees and volunteers in primary health centre catchment areas. It will conduct community-based health and first aid training for 240 National Society volunteers and staff at 12 branches, focusing on community engagement throughout. It will also run community-based psychosocial support activities during emergencies, integrating them with water, sanitation and hygiene, and health and disaster management interventions.

The National Society will strengthen its emergency medical programme and referral system. This covers general practitioners, standard operating procedures, the referral system, the purchase of 25 new ambulances and the upgrading and maintenance of 36 more. It will provide ongoing training for health staff and emergency teams in first aid, and in health promotion and disease prevention at 12 of its branches. It will also train staff at primary health centres in addressing moderate or severe acute malnutrition, and emergency health care.

The Yemen Red Crescent Society will strengthen its epidemic preparedness and response by developing an implementation strategy, tools and skills training. Connecting WASH measures and public health, it will

provide WASH assistance in at-risk communities and those affected by epidemics. The National Society will ensure that three health facilities, including the Yemen Red Crescent Society Hospital have WASH measures in place for infection prevention and control.

The National Society will strengthen its emergency WASH response to people affected by disasters and crises by integrating a WASH component into its national contingency plan. It will pre-position WASH supplies and establish supply framework agreements, enabling it to provide life-saving WASH assistance to people affected by crises or disaster – meeting their immediate life-saving needs and reducing public health risks. This includes constructing emergency sanitation facilities for displaced people.

In areas with returnees and protracted crises, and in urban or semi-urban settings, the National Society will move towards more sustainable and resilient WASH programming. The National Society will also expand and focus on WASH services in schools and health facilities. It will adopt a balanced approach towards WASH interventions, adding hygiene promotion to equipment. In the longer term, the National Society will explore the possibility of piloting and adopting more participatory and sustainable WASH promotion interventions and approaches to behaviour change. Sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene in protracted crisis and urban and semi-urban settings includes:

- Rehabilitating water supply systems in communities to ensure equitable and sustainable access to safe water for drinking, cooking and other domestic purposes
- Establishing training programmes for committees in the sustainable community-based management of WASH facilities
- Training National Society volunteers on the topic of hygiene promotion
- Running awareness-raising media campaigns to promote and measure positive behaviour changes in personal and community hygiene within targeted communities, including menstrual hygiene

The German Red Cross will support the Yemen Red Crescent Society emergency response mobile clinic, and comprehensive emergency obstetric care in primary health care centres. The German Red Cross will also support the rehabilitation of water systems, including the upgrading to solar-powered systems.

The Norwegian Red Cross will support the National Society emergency health services, including the running costs of ambulance services at eight public health care centres, and the delivery of first aid training to Ministry of Public Health and Population employees and Yemen Red Crescent Society staff and volunteers. It will continue to support eight primary health care centres of the National Society, with a possible increase to 10, which includes support for rehabilitation, medicines, medical supplies and equipment, staff training, health worker incentives and running costs. It is considering supporting two mobile clinics. The Norwegian Red Cross will also support knowledge and practices related to health and WASH, including health and hygiene awareness of about 5,000 patients in public health care centres, the targeting of communities with well-functioning community health committees, and distribution of hygiene kits. It will support the National Society in training and equipment for vulnerable communities on first aid, training and advanced manuals in primary health care centres, and training on health care in danger for National Society and Ministry of Public Health and Population staff in the north and south.

The Qatar Red Crescent Society plans to substantially support the Yemen Red Crescent Society hospital over the next five years. It will also support the National Society by establishing a pilot water supply project.

The IFRC, to empower the National Society public health care centres, will support three facilities – covering medical supplies, running costs and incentives. It will also build first aid capacity by providing international first aid attestation certification, supporting 35 first aid training courses for staff and volunteers, and providing personal first aid kits. The IFRC will also support the National Society community-based health and first aid activities, mental health and psychosocial support, preparedness and response to epidemics, and blood donation. The IFRC will work with the National Society to strengthen and reactivate the role of the National Society health emergency response team, and to integrate their response with supported health centres. The IFRC will help organize peer-to-peer exchange visits to other National Societies, to learn about the experiences of others and share knowledge.

In collaboration with other Movement partners, the IFRC will give technical and financial support to the Yemen Red Crescent Society for all of its WASH priorities identified for 2023. The IFRC will also support the setting up of a WASH department at National Society headquarters level, and provide technical and financial support for building the National Society's

technical and operational WASH capacities. It will help the National Society coordinate and organize a WASH technical working group as needed, and participate in the WASH cluster.

Migration and displacement

Yemen counts a staggering 4.3 million internally displaced persons. Furthermore, according to UNHCR, Yemen hosts nearly 96,000 refugees and asylum seekers, mainly from Somalia and Ethiopia.

Displacement is not only a consequence of the conflict that has been unfolding since 2014, but also natural hazards causing disasters – mainly floods and torrential rains. Camps for internally displaced people in Yemen are particularly vulnerable to extreme weather events, in part due to poor infrastructure and limited disaster risk reduction safeguards. Nearly half of the camps in Yemen are at risk of flooding; the [floods in July 2022](#) affected 155,000 people, or 23,000 families, most of whom lived in the 264 camps which were affected across Yemen. Half of these people lost nearly everything they had.

Secondary displacement continues to rise in Yemen, as people who are already displaced are forced to move again due to conflict, extreme weather events or both. Many people settle informally in hazard-prone areas and are forced to move again. This weakens people's self-sufficiency, depletes their limited assets and erodes their social networks – often resulting in negative coping mechanisms. While climate and environmental factors play a part, most of the migration between districts is driven by socio-economic factors, although the very poorest groups lack the resources to move.

Yemen is the only country in the Arabian Peninsula to sign the [1951 Refugee Convention](#). This is particularly important, as Yemen is a transit point for migrants and asylum seekers from the Horn of Africa and beyond.

Main actions and areas of support

The Yemen Red Crescent Society integrates assistance to internally displaced populations into all its programmes. To continue providing this assistance, it must maintain an active role in coordination mechanisms for effective camp management. As part of the National Society's objectives in this area, it seeks to ensure that the conditions and surroundings for people in sites for internally displaced persons are improved in a protection-oriented and dignified manner.

The IFRC will provide the Yemen Red Crescent Society with support, appropriate training, advice and clear

direction to guide their engagement in the field of migration and displacement. This will be in line with the targets and commitments of the IFRC global migration strategy and other Movement frameworks.

Values, power and inclusion

The protection of civilians remains a priority for the National Society in Yemen. Women and children are disproportionately affected by conditions in the country – as well as comprising 75 per cent of the displaced population, they face heightened risks of violence and abuse. The situation has deteriorated further since the COVID-19 pandemic. Families often resort to negative coping mechanisms that are harmful to children, such as child labour, begging, child marriage, sexual violence and exploitation, and forced recruitment into the conflict.

The years of war and subsequent crises are driving social change, putting women under more economic pressure as they struggle to provide for their families. Women and girls urgently need more support, such as income-generating activities for women and adolescent girls no longer in school.

In its review and development of a Strategic Plan for 2022–2026, the Yemen Red Crescent Society has reviewed research studies and assessment reports, focusing on the lessons that have been learned over the last few years. Its analysis highlighted the need for the National Society to enhance its humanitarian response, and for its assistance to be more inclusive. With the support of Movement partners, it will focus on the following areas:

- Engagement with young people
- Mainstreaming protection, gender and inclusion into programmatic activities
- Integrating gender and inclusion aspects within the governance, management, leadership and structures of the National Society

Main actions and areas of support

To address the challenges in this area, the Yemen Red Crescent Society aims to build and maintain protection capacity at the community level. This includes:

- Assisting vulnerable people who have received training to establish their own projects or small businesses
- Distributing 3,500 dignity kits for internally displaced women and girls at community centres

- Distributing 10,000 school bags, including stationery, to vulnerable children affected by conflict or disaster
- Assisting 20,000 internally displaced people with legal aid – such as legal advice, legal awareness sessions for internally displaced people, and support in obtaining personal identities
- Providing mental health and psychosocial support activities for 30,000 beneficiaries – including family counselling, specialized psychological support for chronic cases, referrals when needed, child-friendly spaces, activities for children, safe spaces for women, and group and individual counselling
- Installing and training community network members and community volunteers

The National Society will also work to provide adequate care, support and referral services to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, and children in need of emergency protection. It will try to improve official recognition of its auxiliary role in the protection sector, and adopt guidelines, tools and mechanisms such as policies on protection against sexual exploitation and abuse, non-discrimination, harassment and child safeguarding.

Finally, the National Society will strengthen engagement with communities through integrating mechanisms for communication, participation, feedback and complaints into all programmes and operations. It will train staff and volunteers to strengthen their understanding of, and capacity to implement, community engagement and accountability approaches.

The German Red Cross will continue to support the Yemen Red Crescent Society on education by rehabilitating and constructing schools. The German Red Cross will also support the National Society's protection capacity, and to establish community engagement and accountability measures within programmes in 2023.

The IFRC, together with other Movement partners, will support the National Society by enhancing its capacity for protection, gender and inclusion, and mainstreaming it across all programmes including disaster management, water, sanitation and hygiene, and health. There will also be systems in place for developing and implementing data collection and analysis in this area. It will also support the activation and integration of community, engagement and accountability approaches. The IFRC will support the National Society to adopt policies and systems relating to the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, the prevention of fraud and corruption, non-discrimination and child safeguarding.

Enabling local actors

The Yemen Red Crescent Society has operated continuously throughout the country's ongoing conflict and political divisions, and is recognized as one unified National Society. It operates through a network of 22 branches with activities across the country. It is committed to responding effectively and in a principled manner, to meet the growing and changing humanitarian needs in Yemen. To do this, the Yemen Red Crescent Society will need to remain a relevant, strong and well-functioning National Society, maintaining unity and integrity at all times. The National Society development initiative is designed to support these aims.

The priorities of the Yemen Red Crescent Society's development strategy between 2022 and 2026 are:

- To be a strong and effective National Society with a well-defined organizational culture and structure, clear policies, procedures and legislation
- To support and retain volunteers and youth in conducting National Society activities in a humane and motivated way

- To ensure the National Society is financially sustainable in conducting its work
- To support and enhance branches to be efficient and effective in their work
- To continue raising awareness and developing positive working relationships with the relevant authorities at all levels

The IFRC and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) have agreed to work together to scale up their contribution to the National Society's development in a coordinated and complementary way, signing a trilateral agreement in August 2021. The IFRC will provide technical expertise and support, while the ICRC pledges to mobilize and allocate the necessary financial resources. A National Society framework concept note outlines the agreement's purpose, strategy and key steps, creating an enabling environment for the development of the Yemen Red Crescent Society in the short and long term. The IFRC has also deployed a National Society development delegate to support the Yemen Red Crescent Society.

Engaged

- Ensuring that key representatives of humanitarian and development agencies, ministries and stakeholders – including official and de facto authorities, tribal leaders, arms carriers and beneficiaries in each governorate – are well informed about the role and activities of the National Society, so that they advocate for the Yemen Red Crescent Society in their respective areas and communities
- Using the Yemen Red Crescent Society brand to promote the organizational culture of branches, based on common values, priorities, achievements and impact
- Developing an approach for effective communication that is consistent with the National Society's strategies, plans and potential – including building a communication policy; developing communication, promotional and branding tools for the branches; equipping branches with a new communication toolkit; training staff; putting human resources in place; updating the National Society's online presence
- Creating an app that helps communities quickly access information
- Ensuring that the Yemen Red Crescent Society has the information technology (IT) systems to efficiently run its daily operations – remaining accountable; being 'data ready' for engagement with staff and volunteers; making operational decisions; and managing business intelligence – while putting communities and volunteers at the centre of all digital transformation goals

The IFRC will continue to support the Yemen Red Crescent Society through:

- Developing and implementing the communication strategy and helping to organize the Yemen Red Crescent Society's advocacy campaigns
- Narrowing the digital gap and supporting the National Society's digital transformation by enhancing its connectivity within headquarters, across branches and with regional and global partners
- Putting in place the required hardware to maintain and secure organization and beneficiary data

- Developing IT standard operating procedures and guidelines to ensure proper governance is in place
- Building staff capacity to better handle and manage newly implemented systems, including assigning and supporting a person to act as a dedicated IT focal point

Accountable

- Strengthening the Yemen Red Crescent Society's finance and account management systems by improving procedures, building staff capacities, enhancing monitoring and reporting mechanisms, improving finance software connected to all branches, producing timely annual audits, and improving payroll mechanisms
- Developing standards, tools and guidelines, and promoting the coordination of resources and capacities within the IFRC network

The German Red Cross will support the Yemen Red Crescent Society finance department in terms of human resources and capacity building for branch finance and logistics.

The Norwegian Red Cross will invest in the financial development of the Yemen Red Crescent Society by improving procedures, building up staff skills, putting in place systems for monitoring and reporting, improving financial software connected to all branches, and improving the payroll system. It will support the implementation of an enterprise resource planning system in all branches, integrating accurate stock, assets and opening balances. It will assist with reconciling all unclosed balances and conducting annual auditing, as well as with hiring an internal auditor. The anti-corruption and whistleblower protection policies approved by the Yemen Red Crescent Society will be enforced, and a phonenumber will be set up. All staff members at the headquarters and in branches will be trained on anti-corruption awareness and fraud reporting.

The IFRC will support the Yemen Red Crescent Society with increasing its investment, partnerships and collaborations within the IFRC network. This includes developing a digital dashboard that maps IFRC and membership contributions to National Society operations and programmes, for easier information sharing and coordination



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Trusted

- Improving systems and approaches that contribute to the implementation of programmes and service delivery in an accountable manner, enabling easier information sharing and coordination
- Ensuring quality and timely delivery in line with commitments to partners and donors on implementation and reporting, with a clear definition of roles and responsibilities. This includes a unit for planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting at headquarters, training of staff on project cycle management, and the activation of community engagement and accountability mechanisms at headquarters and branches
- Strengthening democratic decision-making within the governance structures of the National Society – including an organizational chart for staff and branches, increasing capacity building in key areas such as youth and branch development, and staff training
- Building capacity based on a Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment (BOCA) action plan in 10 branches
- Improving volunteer management systems at branch and headquarters level – including the development and dissemination of, and training in, a National Society volunteer management manual
- Increasing the sustainability and outreach of local volunteer and youth-driven activities in all branches, through the re-establishment of the Local Fund
- Strengthening the National Society's ability to develop and sustain volunteer activities by involving volunteers and young people in decision-making through the election of volunteer committees in each branch; holding volunteer steering committee meetings; and establishing a national volunteer forum
- Enhancing and developing the performance of staff, volunteers and youth at headquarters and branch level, through training on key topics such as language, Excel literacy and management skills
- Conducting youth-led programmes and training on youth as agents of behavioural change, while designing toolkits and conducting youth life skills training in 12 branches
- Initiating Movement induction course programmes for young people in 21 branches
- Establishing a staff position for National Society development, to provide consultation and guidance on strategic long-term developmental direction, in line with the Yemen Red Crescent Society's Strategic Plan 2022–2026
- Training and peer support in skills, data literacy and strategy development related to influencing
- Enhancing membership coordination based on an overarching strategy, practical tools, and regional and national coordination
- Adapting and implementing the IFRC Middle East and North Africa (MENA) membership coordination framework, developed in 2021, and piloting the enhanced membership coordination in Yemen

The IFRC will continue to support the Yemen Red Crescent Society with:

- Organizing dialogues and peer-to-peer exchange visits within the MENA region and globally, in different thematic areas aligned with National Society development
- Establishing a unit for planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting
- Finalizing organizational charts at headquarters and branch level
- Strengthening the use of a resources management system within branches, identifying ways to enhance aspects of volunteer management
- Developing a volunteer management approach and overall youth and volunteer development activities and initiatives – including training and capacity building activities at headquarters and branch level
- and developing a staff, volunteer and youth training database – ensuring that all activities are aligned with the National Society's youth policy
- Implementing the youth engagement strategy and youth as agents of behavioural change initiative
- Following up on plans of action from Branch Organizational Capacity Assessments (BOCA)
- Conducting an Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process, if it has not been completed by 2022
- Creating and implementing a workplan for Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC 2.0), with strong National Society engagement and wider IFRC participation, including extension of the Movement Cooperation Agreement

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC has a long-standing presence in Yemen since 2003 and its support to the Yemen Red Crescent centres on strategic and operational coordination, National Society development, and humanitarian diplomacy. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme.

In Yemen, the IFRC gives particular focus to its central role in facilitating and coordinating efforts geared towards National Society Development, with a view of pooling capacities and resources in which other partners have a comparative advantage. The IFRC provides support in a wide range of sectoral and technical areas, and emergency response. In recent years, the IFRC supported the National Society through several Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) and Emergency Appeal operations in relation to floods and disease outbreaks. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the IFRC, through its global Appeal, has supported the National Society in its COVID-19 response.

Membership coordination

The IFRC coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agreeing common priorities; co-developing common strategies to address

issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space; mobilizing funding and other resources; clarifying consistent public messaging; and monitoring progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need incorporate clarity of humanitarian action, development assistance, and the auxiliary role efforts to reinforce the role of National Societies in their respective countries.

The Yemen Red Crescent Society is part of the IFRC network New Way of Working initiative, piloted in 14 countries. It aims to establish a new model of membership coordination, running over several years to instill a thorough change management in the ways IFRC network members work together, placing the country's National Society at its centre. This initiative includes prioritizing effective coordination for much greater gains, optimizing the power of working as one IFRC network by sharing resources, learnings, and common standards, to ultimately achieve greater impact. Particular attention is given to collective planning to ensure that National Society partners present in the country participate in one multi-year country plan, ensuring that the resources and expertise of the in-country network are used in a complementary and efficient way.

Participating National Society Support - Bilateral

Name of Partner NS	Funding Requirements	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Engaged	Accountable	Trusted
British Red Cross			●						
Canadian Red Cross				●					
Danish Red Cross	CHF 2.10M		●	●	●	●	●		●
Finnish Red Cross				●					
German Red Cross	CHF 2.90M		●	●		●	●	●	●
Italian Red Cross	CHF 0.10M		●				●		
Japanese Red Cross				●					
Korean Red Cross	CHF 0.42M								
Norwegian Red Cross	CHF 2.27M		●	●			●	●	
Qatar Red Crescent	CHF 4.10M		●	●					
Swedish Red Cross			●	●		●			

Total

11.89M

IFRC network partners in Yemen include the Danish Red Cross, German Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross and Qatar Red Crescent Society. The British Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross Society, Italian Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross, the Netherlands Red Cross and Swedish Red Cross also provide multilateral support.

The IFRC network partners also support the development of the Yemen Red Crescent Society in their programme interventions. This includes sharing progress to ensure their objectives and approaches are aligned with National Society priorities, as well as ensuring gaps in technical capacity are addressed. Overall, the IFRC members in Yemen coordinate their efforts through technical working groups and direct

communication in all programme sectors, and this helps them all to achieve their objectives.

The Yemen Red Crescent Society is part of the global pilot programmatic partnership between the IFRC and the [European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations](#) (DG ECHO). This partnership benefits from the support of the Danish Red Cross as lead EU National Society, as well the German Red Cross, the Norwegian Red Cross and the IFRC for the implementation of activities in Yemen in the areas of disaster risk management, epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response, and community engagement and accountability.

Movement coordination

In Yemen, IFRC membership coordination is guided by the overall International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement coordination framework. All Movement partners work closely together with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) as security lead. A coordination agreement was signed in 2019, renewed in 2021 and will remain in place until 2024. Under the agreement, there are three operational Movement coordination levels in Yemen: the strategic level platform, the operations level coordination group, and technical level working groups. These platforms serve to identify needs and gaps in the areas of disaster management, health, water, sanitation and hygiene, and National Society development. They aim to fulfil the National Society's priorities and meet the needs of affected people, ensuring that humanitarian support is provided in a timely, accurate and integrated way. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

The ICRC in Yemen continues to provide food and non-food aid to people in need in different parts of the country. It also rehabilitates health and water infrastructures and supports physical rehabilitation centres. In line with its mandate under the Geneva Conventions, the ICRC also engages in sustained dialogue with the parties involved in the conflict in Yemen on the conduct of their troops during armed hostilities, and promotes respect of the rules enshrined in international humanitarian law. It continues to visit places of detention under the authority of the parties to the conflict in order to monitor the treatment and living conditions of detainees. The ICRC also works with families and authorities to ensure that missing persons are accounted for.

The ICRC, in close collaboration with the Yemen Red Crescent Society and other Movement partners, continues in its efforts to alleviate the suffering of communities, through the National Society's vast network of volunteers in 22 branches across the country.

Coordination with other actors

The Yemen Red Crescent Society works most closely with its Movement partners, who provide longstanding and reliable support, engagement and a full commitment to the Fundamental Principles. The National Society, as an auxiliary to the public authorities, has developed strategic partnerships with several ministries, including the Ministry of Public Health and Population and the Ministry of Education. At the governorate level, there is ongoing dialogue with local authorities for coordination purposes.

The National Society has also established partnerships with other organizations, including UN agencies such as the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Through these channels, the Yemen Red Crescent Society communicates with other UN agencies and its work is included in overall cluster reporting. Given the sensitive operational context, it is important that external partnerships are carefully balanced and uphold the perception of Movement neutrality in Yemen.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Global Plan and Country Plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Donor response](#) on IFRC website
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\)](#) data
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, with **192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies** and around **14 million volunteers**. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

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