



JOINT STATEMENT BY
The Yemen Red Crescent Society (YRCS)
and
The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
and
The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent National
Societies (IFRC)
on the
INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT
RESPONSE TO THE FLOODS IN YEMEN

BACKGROUND & NEEDS

Torrential rains across Yemen, intensified by climate change, have deepened the suffering of a population already weakened by nearly a decade of conflict. In the initial stages, the heavy rains and subsequent flash floods have affected over 441,000 people (63,000 families), resulting in the loss of more than 80 lives and leaving around 95 people injured. The floods have caused widespread displacement and extensive damage to homes and critical infrastructure. In addition to the devastating impact on resources, livelihoods, and infrastructure, the current situation has heightened the danger posed by landmines and explosive ordnances, which are being swept from higher ground into residential areas. This threat is particularly significant in the governorates of Hodeida, Hajjah, Taiz, Al Jawf, Sana'a Governorate, Sana'a Alamanh, Ibb, Saddah, and Marib.

With rains predicted to continue in the coming period, there is a potential for the number of affected people to rise further.

The Yemen Red Crescent Society (YRCS) has been at the forefront of relief efforts, leading the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's response to the devastating situation. YRCS volunteers and staff, in close coordination with civil defence, local authorities, and other humanitarian organizations, have been tirelessly working to locate the missing and provide essential aid.

The relief efforts include the distribution of hygiene kits, food baskets, tarpaulins, mosquito nets, and other critical household supplies to those most severely impacted by the disaster.

MOVEMENT RESPONSE

When torrential rains and flash floods began in early August 2024, YRCS with the support of ICRC and IFRC swiftly initiated relief efforts. As part of the IFRC Way of Working¹, in support of the YRCS's response, partner National Societies, including the Danish Red Cross and Norwegian Red Cross, quickly procured essential household items. As a result from this joint coordinated effort, YRCS has assisted 8,307 families across the affected governorates, providing Non-Food Items (NFIs) such as mattresses, blankets, kitchen sets, buckets, and hygiene kits. Additionally, food parcels have been distributed to

¹ YRCS is part of the IFRC network's Way of Working initiative, in how IFRC network members work together, placing the country's National Society at its centre by joint situation and need analysis, risk matrix, sharing resources, learnings and common accountability standards to achieve a greater impact. IFRC network partners in Yemen include the Danish Red Cross, German Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross and Qatar Red Crescent Society.

4,791 families, and tarpaulin sheets and mosquito nets to 1,212 families. YRCS continues to work alongside civil defence teams in ongoing search and rescue operations in the hardest-hit areas.

With the weather forecast predicting continued rainfall in the coming weeks, the Movement partners on the ground are continuously assessing the full scope of needs. The ability to sustain the initial response will depend on scaling up capacity and securing additional resources to support YRCS operations. In light of this rapid development, YRCS has requested that the IFRC launch an Emergency Appeal to mobilise the necessary resources for both immediate relief and long-term recovery efforts.

MOVEMENT COORDINATION

The Movement's work and coordination in Yemen is framed by the Movement Coordination Agreement which identifies 3 key levels of coordination mechanisms (strategic, operational, and technical) which are fully functional. A division of roles between components is in place, well understood and respected by all.

Following the immediate initial response and the request of YRCS to launch an international appeal, Movement partners held a Mini-Summit on August 22, with a focus on maximising the collective impact of the Movement, leading to the following outcomes:

As the Convener, the YRCS will maintain the central role in coordinating the floods response operation.

The IFRC will coordinate the implementation of the activities included in the Emergency Appeal, the YRCS international resource mobilisation effort the support to the National Society's capacity strengthening at different levels, as well as Membership coordination.

While it will no longer engage directly in the response to the floods beyond the emergency phase, the ICRC will retain its co-convener role in Yemen. This includes providing security management, as well as logistical and administrative support to international Movement partners. It will continue to facilitate the Movement's presence, in particular in the governorates affected by the floods which are in conflict areas.

A technical group fully dedicated to the coordination of the emergency response will be created within the Movement Operational Coordination Group, which includes all the Movement partners present in the country.

YRCS, along with the ICRC and IFRC will organise a joint meeting with relevant authorities. The meeting will highlight the Movement's initial response and outline key messages regarding future interventions, plans and internal Movement coordination mechanisms. This will be in preparation of the launch of the Emergency Appeal, which will address both the emergency and recovery phases.

Public communication on the response will be made jointly and is to be initiated by YRCS in close consultation with the IFRC and ICRC in Yemen.

The Movement partners will maintain a close operational dialogue and security management on activities implemented in conflict related areas.

ASK TO THE MOVEMENT

Considering the scale of the disaster and the increasing needs of the affected population, Movement partners are urged to support the YRCS in its ongoing response to address the most urgent humanitarian needs.

In light of logistical challenges in the Red Sea region, local procurement will be prioritized wherever possible to streamline the delivery of aid. For National Societies wishing to provide in-kind donations to the Yemen Red Crescent Society (YRCS), this must be explicitly agreed upon by YRCS in close coordination with the IFRC and ICRC. Please direct your requests and proposals to Abdullah Al Azap, DM Coordinator for YRCS at a.azap@yemenredcrescent.org

Movement partners are also encouraged to engage with their back donors and prepare them to contribute to the IFRC Emergency Appeal.

Given the volatile and sensitive context in Yemen, it is essential that all components of the Movement, both in-country and globally, ensure alignment in communication strategies. All messaging including external public communication, must be coordinated and validated at the country level, in close collaboration with the YRCS, to avoid missteps or misperceptions that could undermine the credibility of the entire Movement or jeopardize critical in-country operations.

CONTACTS

- YRCS- Muhammad Hassan Al Faqeeh, Acting Executive Director, email: fakeeh-mo@yemenredcrescent.org
- ICRC- Natalie Bekdache, Communication Coordinator Yemen, email: nabilbekdache@icrc.org
- IFRC- Tamer Ramadan, Head of Delegation Yemen, email: TAMER.RAMADAN@ifrc.org

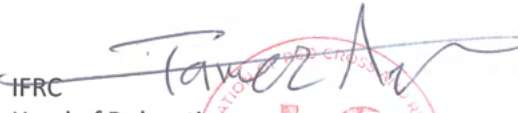
On behalf of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, we express our deep concern and solidarity with the affected population. We are fully committed to doing our level best to answer their needs. We thank all Movement partners for their support and encouraging words during these challenging times.


ICRC
Head of Delegation




YRCS
Secretary General




IFRC
Head of Delegation



Sana'a, 26th of August 2024