

FACTS & FIGURES

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2015



THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS IN YEMEN

OVERVIEW

In 2015, more than two million Yemenis were forced to flee their homes, thousands lost their lives and countless others were maimed or injured. Across the country, hospitals ran out of supplies, electricity and water systems broke down, food and other basic commodities such as fuel ran critically low in some areas.

As the conflict played out, civilian infrastructure including hospitals, airports, roads and residential areas were damaged and at times deliberately targeted.

To address part of the arising needs and alleviate some of the suffering, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) stepped up its operations in Yemen and scaled up its activities.

In spite of various constraints and challenges faced by the ICRC over the past year, including serious and recurrent security incidents, the ICRC remained committed to working in Yemen. In 2015, the ICRC reached close to three millions Yemenis across the country and responded to their most urgent needs in terms of food, water and health care, in a strictly impartial and neutral manner.

The ICRC acknowledges that what has been done remains a drop in the ocean when looking at the overall needs of the population of a country which was suffering from years of internal conflicts and political upheaval and poverty. Helping Yemenis affected by the armed conflict will remain at the heart of ICRC's humanitarian operations in 2016.

The ICRC has been present in Yemen since 1962. It currently has 269 staff members in Yemen, of whom 142 are currently working in Sana'a, 76 in Aden, 42 in Saada, and 18 in Taiz. In addition 17 staff work in Djibouti in support of ICRC's operations in Yemen.



ICRC distributes food assistance to displaced people

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE INCLUDING FOOD AND OTHER ESSENTIAL ITEMS

Millions of Yemenis lack the necessary means to provide for their families' basic food needs. With the start of the conflict, more than two million Yemenis became displaced and grew increasingly dependent on the provision of humanitarian assistance.

In 2015, the ICRC provided various forms of assistance to over 300,000 people, of which the majority were displaced. This assistance was distributed in close coordination with the Yemeni Red Crescent Society and other local organizations.

The emergency relief aid (food and non-food items) was distributed during 137 different distributions as follows:

- food rations including rice, beans, lentils, oil, tea and sugar were distributed to about 180,000 people in Aden, Lahj, Hadramout, Shabwa, Taiz, Ibb, Al-Hodeidah, Saada, Amran, Sana'a, and Al-Jawf
- close to 110,000 people in northern and southern governorates benefited from the distribution of blankets in addition to hygienic items (including soap, washing detergents, shampoo, personal hygiene items, etc.) and other essential household items (including kitchen utensils, buckets, jerry cans and sleeping mats)
- more than 4,500 people and their dependents benefited from cash-for-work activities

More than 1,800 displaced and vulnerable persons in Taiz, Marib, North Amran, and Al Jawf covered their essential needs through an ICRC supported cash transfer program.



PROVISION OF CLEAN WATER AND UPGRADING WATER AND SANITATION WORKS

The ICRC works to ensure that people affected by violence have access to clean water and acceptable sanitary conditions. In 2015, more than 2.2 million people benefited from ICRC activities in the field of water and sanitation. Highlights of these activities include:

- support local water and sanitation corporations in Aden, Taiz, Sana'a, Al-Baida, Dhamar and Saada in sustaining the provision of clean and potable water by assisting in repairs of reservoirs, main pipelines, donations of fuel, water treatment material, incentives and technical assistance

- rehabilitation of water infrastructure in rural areas in Abyan governorate, Taiz, Al-Dhale and Sana'a
- provision of a total of 15 generators to hospitals, water boards and one central prison
- rehabilitation works, electricity works and trucking in water to hospitals in Aden, Taiz, Dhamar and Sana'a.
- erection of 28 water distribution points in Sana'a and Taiz
- 36 employees from rural water boards and local councils benefited from training in emergency water repairs
- support to garbage collection in Aden, Sana'a, Saada, Taiz, and Al-Baida in addition to sewage cleaning for Al-Baida
- donation of water purification material to the water authorities of Mukalla in response to cyclone Chapala.



HEALTH CARE FOR THE SICK AND WOUNDED

In 2015, the conflict caused severe shortages of medical and surgical supplies across the country. To address some of these shortages and help treat thousands of wounded people, the ICRC:

- supported 62 hospitals and 44 health facilities in 15 governorates through 282 donations of medical and surgical supplies enabling them to treat more than 26,000 war wounded and perform over 14,900 surgeries
- supported two hospitals in Aden (Al-Jamhouria and Al-Mansoura) with incentives, medical staff and supplies
- donated generators to two hospitals in Sana'a and one in Dhamar to ensure the continued functioning of vital hospital equipment
- supported 18 key primary health centers in Saada, Amran, Sana'a, Al-Baida, Abyan and Al-Dhale that benefit close to 300,000 people with monthly medications and supplies
- organized a 3 day Emergency Room Trauma course for three hospitals in Sana'a, Hadramawt and Amran for a total of 60 medical professionals

- organized 3-day War Surgery Seminar for 39 key surgeons from 20 different hospitals across the country
- Gave 12 first aid training sessions to 278 arms carriers and health personnel.



Mohammed Abdullah/ICRC

An ICRC physiotherapist tends to a 3 years old girl with an amputated leg at a physical rehabilitation center.

PHYSICAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM (PRP)

The ICRC supports four Physical Rehabilitation Centers (PRC) of Ministry of Public Health & Population in Sana'a, Aden, Mukalla and Taiz.

Since the beginning of the year, More than 62, 000 people with disabilities benefitted from the services of these centers; about 27, 000 patients received physiotherapy treatment while more than 650 prostheses and close to 18, 000 orthoses were produced. Six students were also sponsored by the ICRC to pursue a three year diploma in physiotherapy at the High Institute of Health Sciences in Sana'a.

BILATERAL DIALOGUE AND RESTORING FAMILY LINKS

ICRC maintains a confidential, bilateral dialogue with all parties to the conflict on the conduct of hostilities and the respect for the international humanitarian law with the ultimate aim of protecting the civilian population. In addition to this ongoing dialogue, since the beginning of the year, the ICRC has:

- repeatedly acted as a neutral intermediary liaising with parties to enable the provisions of essential humanitarian services as well as humanitarian assistance
- facilitated in its role as neutral intermediary and in cooperation with YRCS the collection of the mortal remains of more than 350 persons from some of the most war-torn areas of Yemen
- facilitated, in its role as neutral intermediary, the transport to Djibouti of the mortal remains of a Moroccan Royal Air Force pilot as well as the transportation of 14 liberated prisoners from Sanaa to Aden and from Aden to Sanaa.
- provided more than 3,650 body bags to authorities and arms carriers

- organized and delivered 5 training sessions on management of the dead to local authorities and weapons bearers
- helped restore and maintain links between separated family member by exchanging 6,250 Red Cross messages

In addition, the ICRC helped Yemeni nationals detained at Guantanamo and other US detention facilities to stay in contact with their families in Yemen through facilitating the exchange of about; 670 RCM, 70 short safe and well message, 90 phone calls and 90 video-conference calls for detainees and their families.



Mohammed Abdullah/ICRC

An ICRC delegate speaks to a detainee behind bars, explaining the purpose of ICRC's visits to places of detention

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY

Visiting people deprived of their liberty remains a priority for ICRC, which stands ready to visit people held by one side or another any time the opportunity would arise. Although this activity was slowed down by the current hostilities, the ICRC managed to visit 15 places of detention since the beginning of the year, monitoring the living conditions of more than 4,000 detainees. Material assistance in the form of an electrical generator and water filters was also provided to a number of places.

RAISING AWARENESS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

ICRC strives to build understanding of basic international humanitarian law with the ultimate aim of preventing human suffering and ensuring the protection of the civilian population. It also aims at raising awareness on the humanitarian consequences of the conflict. Since the beginning of the year, the ICRC has:

- issued 30 written public documents detailing the humanitarian situation and reminding parties to the conflict of the IHL rules that must be observed
- organized 42 dissemination sessions across the country to increase understanding of ICRC and its mandate as



Hussein Al-Seadi/ICRC

An ICRC delegate explains the Red Cross Red Crescent movement and basic international humanitarian law concepts

well as build basic understanding of IHL

- generated content including photos and videos to highlight the suffering of the civilian population and the impact the conflict has had on the daily fabrics of people's lives.

SUPPORT TO THE YEMENI RED CRESCENT SOCIETY

Throughout 2015, the ICRC has coordinated the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement humanitarian response in Yemen and significantly increased its support to the Yemeni Red Crescent Society (YRCS) emergency response activities. This included technical, logistical and financial support to YRCS headquarters and select branches across the country.

YRCS and ICRC staff and volunteers risked their lives every day to help communities throughout Yemen. The tragic deaths of 8 YRCS and ICRC staff members killed in the line of duty since April is a stark reminder of the difficulties and dangers that the people of Yemen have faced in 2015.



Hassan Jaber/YRCS

The ICRC retrieved along with the YRCS 350 dead bodies from conflict-affected areas

THE ICRC'S MISSION IN A NUTSHELL

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was founded 150 years ago, in 1863, and is part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It has been working in Yemen for over 53 years, since 1962.

The ICRC is a neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian organisation.

It seeks to preserve a measure of humanity in times of armed conflicts.

Its guiding principle is that even in war, there are limits. The set of rules that were established with this in mind and endorsed by nearly every nation in the world is known as International Humanitarian Law, of which the Geneva Conventions are the backbone.

With its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, the ICRC counts over 12,000 staff who work in more than 80 countries.

ICRC Sana'a

Baghdad Street, St. No. 19,
House No. 20 - Sana'a
PO.Box 2267 Sana'a
Tel: +967 1 467873/4/0 - 213844 ; Fax: +967 1 467875 ;
E-mail: san_sanaa@icrc.org

ICRC Central Sanaa

Baghdad Street, in front of UNHCR- Sana'a
Tel: +967 1 467873/4/0 - 213844, Fax: +967 1 467875
E-mail: san_sanaa@icrc.org

ICRC Sa'ada

Cutural Centre Street - Sa'ada, Yemen
Tel: +967 0 7517335 - 518215 - 07 5173 53 -711 182 864;
Fax: +967 0 7517301
E-mail: sad_saada@icrc.org

ICRC Aden Sub-Delegation

Al Jala Area, khormakser district, Aden
Phone : +967 2 233172 +967 2 2336977 +967 737503746
E-mail: ade_aden@icrc.org

ICRC Taiz

Al Qasr Street, Al Salal District,
In front of Al Omra'a Hall, Taiz
Tel: +967 0 4205152; Fax: +967 0 4205445
E-mail: tai_taiz@icrc.org

TO KNOW MORE:

www.icrc.org/ye
facebook.com/ICRCye
twitter.com/icrc_ye
WhatsApp 00967 737503687



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