

WRO Yemen

Situation Report No.2

Heavy flooding in Yemen October 26, 2008

Update on the situation:

An Emergency Committee is established by the President of The Republic to respond to this disaster. The Emergency Response Committee is chaired by Mr. Rashad Al-Alimi, Deputy Prime Minister for Defense and Security Affairs with representation of several ministers and entities.

The Disaster Management Directorate has provided the following information. This information was received late afternoon yesterday. The number is changing as new areas are reached and assessed:

- 58 deaths
- 1213 houses destroyed
- 15 cars were washed away
- 50 boats sank
- 84 institutions affected
- Public infrastructure is seriously damaged including power, roads, water, phone lines etc. in various locations in Hadramout and Al-Mahara
- All the above information is preliminary and the Disaster Management Cell is still receiving reports from affected areas through its focal points.

Floods caused extensive damages to roads and bridges and driving has halted in all districts of Hadarmout valley and Hadarmout coast and heavy damages were inflicted on infrastructure especially water, phone and power networks and people sustained heavy loses to their properties, farms, boats and others.

The main highway between Mukala (center of Hadarmout) and Al-Rayan, was re opened but the main road between the Sana'a and Mukala remains cut off and the government is trying to get food, medicines, blankets, tents and other urgent necessities from Sana'a to Sayoun via military helicopters and flights.

Tens of thousands of people are stranded and are inaccessible due to the destruction of bridges, roads, and accumulation of water around their villages and houses.

Coordination

- ✓ Regular daily meeting of WR Yemen with the Minister of health or his deputy (when the Minister is not available) will be held to review the situation and take decision on relief efforts
- ✓ A joint Ministry of Health and WHO procurement Committee was sat up to take immediate action for the local procurement of urgently medicine and medical supplies and dispatch it to the affected areas urgently
- ✓ A meeting between the UN and the Civil Defense was arranged for sharing information and coordination of UN support to the affected population
- ✓ Urgent meeting of UN Emergency Preparedness and response Team (EPRT) was convened to discuss the situation and coordinate efforts of UN agencies in support of relief efforts

Action under health sector

- ✓ While the immediate relief assistance is going on and dispatching of urgent supplies by the Ministry of Public health is progressing, a comprehensive plan under the health sector is in preparation to respond to the consequences of this disaster. Main attention is given to the enhancing surveillance system, control of water born diseases including malaria and others.
- ✓ WHO Diarrheal Disease Kit which was dispatched yesterday with the rapid assessment mission of Ministry of Health reached to Sayoun and based on the urgent needs for Al Mahra governorate it was delivered to the governor of Al-Mahra at the airport and it was sent by helicopter immediately to Al-Mahra governorate.
- ✓ WHO technical staff are working with the Ministry of health staff for the preparation of an action plan for enhancing the surveillance system in the affected areas.
- ✓ A member of the rapid assessment mission of Ministry of public health will return back to Sana'a by tomorrow to provide a briefing on the situation and by the end of tomorrow we hope to have more updated information on the situation. Based on the briefing, WHO and MOPH&P will decide on the actions to be taken with WHO support including items to be locally procured.
- ✓ Still we have not received the security clearance of WHO staff who will join the MOPH staff in the affected areas. Based on the recommendation of EPRT meeting, it has been decided by UN to send a joint mission comprising of WHO, UNICEF, WFP and UNHCR to the affected area.

- ✓ The mission is scheduled from 27 to 29 October but it depends on the issuing of security clearance. UN/DO is working on it. From WHO side, Mr. Khan Aqa Aseel, WHO Emergency Focal Point, is part of the joint mission. Thanks to Mr. Irshad Sheikh EMRO for close follow up with the country office and for providing us with technical support.
- ✓ No report of any outbreak until now
- ✓ Some NGOs such as Saleh Foundations and others including the Yemeni Red Crescent Society are also sending supplies to the affected areas.

Thank you and best regards,

Ghulam Popal
WR Yemen