

## Helpdesk Research Report: Humanitarian work in Syria and Yemen

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**Query:** Please identify humanitarian partners and projects currently operating in Syria and Yemen.

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### 1. Overview

Syria and Yemen are both experiencing immense humanitarian and development challenges. Violent conflict, political and civil unrest, rising food and fuel prices, mass unemployment and breakdown in social services have contributed to massive displacement, food insecurity and acute malnutrition, difficult living conditions, lack of basic services and poor housing. Neighbouring countries (Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Turkey) have also been affected by the recent influx of refugees from Syria.

There are various multilateral, bilateral and non-governmental organisations that are providing humanitarian assistance to Syria (and neighbouring countries housing Syrian refugees) and Yemen. This helpdesk report provides an overview of humanitarian actors and activities currently operating in these contexts. It is not an exhaustive list, but presents a wide range of actors for whom information was available and outlines the specific programmes and activities in which they are involved. These include:

- provision of food supplies, hygiene kits, blankets, clothing and temporary housing support to recently displaced and refugee populations, and host communities
- provision of clean water and sanitation
- access to basic health services and emergency health care

- rehabilitation of schools, psychosocial programming for children and support to orphans
- support for livelihoods
- ongoing support to refugees present in Syria (from Iraq) and Yemen (from the Horn of Africa).

In many cases, the information on programming and activities provided was limited. As such, the descriptions are often brief.

## 2. Humanitarian work in Syria

### Multilateral organisations

#### United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has been delivering extensive humanitarian aid to thousands of children and families in Syria and neighbouring countries since January 2012. In particular, it has provided/aims to provide:

- **food supplies** to schools and mosques housing displaced people
- **hygiene kits** and other supplies to women and children in school shelters across Damascus
- **psychological assistance** to children
- supplies to displaced families in the Yarmouk Palestinian refugee camp
- assistance to displaced Syrian families who are now in neighbouring Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq. This includes psychosocial support to children in Jordan and Lebanon, and support for summer day camps in Lebanon. The summer camps are meant to prepare both Syrian and Lebanese children for the following school year and to encourage newcomers to enrol in school. UNICEF is also supporting the establishment of a refugee camp in the north of Jordan and provision of water and sanitation facilities, education supplies and child protection services.

Prior to the recent humanitarian crisis in Syria, UNICEF was engaged in educational and vocational training initiatives aimed at vulnerable adolescent refugees in Syria. This was done in partnership with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) and the French Institut Européen de Coopération et de Développement (IECD).

*Sources:*

UNICEF, 'UNICEF delivers supplies to Syrian families amid violence', 23 July 2012

<http://www.unicef.org.uk/Latest/News/syria-violence-unicef-response/>

'Canada open to boosting Syrian humanitarian aid', 25 July 2012

<http://www.cbc.ca/m/touch/news/story/2012/07/25/syria-clash-725.html>

'UNICEF launches emergency appeal urging Canadians to support Syrian children in crisis', 26 July 2012

<http://www.newswire.ca/en/story/1012379/unicef-launches-emergency-appeal-urging-canadians-to-support-syrian-children-in-crisis>

UNICEF, 'UNICEF-supported summer camps are helping Syrian and Lebanese children integrate into public schools in Lebanon', 6 July 2012

[http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/lebanon\\_65234.html](http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/lebanon_65234.html)

UNICEF, 'UNICEF Syria supports vocational training centre for adolescent refugees at risk', 22 June 2010

[http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/syria\\_54044.html](http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/syria_54044.html)

## **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**

Key activities of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) involving Internally Displaced People (IDP) and refugees include:

- advocacy to maintain the protection space
- continued support for the establishment of a legal framework for refugees
- targeted financial assistance to refugees
- inter-agency review of access to medical services and the prioritisation of education interventions
- interventions focused on building national capacity, including preventing and responding to sexual and gender based violence, and providing psychosocial mental health support.

*Sources:*

UNHCR, '2012 UNHCR country operations profile - Syrian Arab Republic'

<http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49e486a76.html>

## **World Food Programme (WFP)**

The World Food Programme (WFP) launched an emergency operation in October 2011 to address the food needs of vulnerable people affected by the events in Syria. The operation progressively scaled up, reaching 540,000 people in July 2012, and aims to reach 850,000 people in August 2012. WFP plans to further expand the operation as access to the affected areas allows.

WFP has been working in partnership with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) providing assistance not only in Syria but also in affected neighbouring countries: Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and Iraq. Assistance has involved the following.

- **Monthly food baskets** (cereals, oil, sugar, canned meat, pulses, Nutributter), with a variety of basic food commodities fulfilling two-thirds of beneficiaries' daily food requirements.
- **Food vouchers** in Lebanon and soon in Iraq, which families can use to buy fresh produce from local markets that are not usually distributed as rations. This also helps to boost the local economy.

- **Hot meals** for new arrivals and families on the move in Jordan, in cooperation with the Jordanian Hashemite Charity Society and the Jordanian Red Crescent.

It was recently reported that WFP's Syria operation is facing a funding shortfall of around US\$62 million on an overall budget of US\$103 million.

*Sources:*

World Food Programme, 'Syria', June-August 2012

<http://www.wfp.org/countries/syria/overview>

FAO and WFP, 'Three million Syrians need food, crops and livestock assistance', 2 August 2012

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/153731/icode/>

### **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has provided support to 9,052 small herders and farmers' households (representing approximately 82,000 people) since December 2011. FAO now estimates that around US\$38 million are required immediately for the next six months to help 112,500 rural households, or about 900,000 people, to ensure the autumn planting for cereals and keep livestock alive or replace lost ones.

*Sources:*

FAO and WFP, 'Three million Syrians need food, crops and livestock assistance', 2 August 2012

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/153731/icode/>

### **European Commission (EC)**

The European Commission (EC) doubled humanitarian aid in June 2012 to provide **shelter, food, medical and health supplies, clean drinking, improved sanitation and basic household supplies** to Syrians affected by the violence both inside Syria and in neighbouring countries.

The Commission channels its humanitarian funding through partners, including the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, as well as the United Nations' Refugee Agency (UNHCR).

*Sources:*

European Commission, 'European Commission boosts humanitarian aid for Syria as Commissioner Georgieva visits Syrian refugees', 20 June 2012

[http://ec.europa.eu/commission\\_2010-2014/georgieva/whats\\_new/headlines/archives/2012/06/20120620\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/georgieva/whats_new/headlines/archives/2012/06/20120620_en.htm)

## **Bilateral partners**

### **U.S. Government**

The U.S. Government has been funding humanitarian aid to Syrians through contributions to international and non-governmental humanitarian partners: WFP, UNHCR, UNRWA, UNICEF, OCHA, the ICRC, and non-governmental organisations.

Within Syria, humanitarian assistance includes: **medical services and supplies, food, water, blankets, hygiene kits, and household items.**

In neighbouring countries – Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, and Iraq – humanitarian assistance to Syrian refugees includes:

- **camp-based humanitarian assistance**; technical assistance on protection issues
- family **tents, blankets and kitchen sets**
- **food parcels and hygiene kits**
- **hot meals** in transit centres
- **cash grants**
- emergency **health services** and medical training
- **water and septic tanks**
- **rehabilitation of schools**, creation of child-friendly spaces and **psychosocial counselling.**

*Sources:*

U.S. Department of State, 'U.S. Humanitarian Aid Reaching Syria and Neighbouring Countries – Fact Sheet', 7 June 2012

<http://geneva.usmission.gov/2012/06/08/u-s-humanitarian-aid-reaching-syria-and-neighborling-countries-fact-sheet/>

### **UK Department for International Development (DFID)**

The UK government has been funding humanitarian aid to Syrians through three established humanitarian agencies. DFID activities include the provision of:

- basic **food rations** and essential household items
- **medical supplies** to injured Syrians in the city of Homs and more widely across Syria affected by ongoing fighting
- emergency **drinking water**
- an advisor to the region to promote better coordination of relief efforts to make sure aid is reaching those who need it the most.

*Sources:*

DFID, 'Syria: Britain to double humanitarian aid', 05 July 2012

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/News/Latest-news/2012/Syria-Britain-to-double-humanitarian-aid/>

DFID, 'Medical help and food for Syrians caught up in violence', 17 February 2012

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/News/Latest-news/2012/syria-medical-help-and-food-for-people-caught-up-in-violence/>

### **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)**

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) is providing support to long-standing partner organisations such as the ICRC, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and FAO to protect and support people in Syria and refugees from Syria in the four neighbouring countries of Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. Activities include the following.

- Feasibility study for cash assistance and quick impact projects to support communities in Jordan and Lebanon hosting Syrian refugees.
- **Rehabilitation of eight public schools** in the north of Jordan where Syrian children are enrolled.
- Secondment of experts to UN organisations.
- **Cash assistance to Syrian refugees** in Jordan (UNHCR).
- **Food assistance** through a voucher system (WFP).
- **Psychosocial and physical rehabilitation** for refugee and displaced children in Syria, and Syrian refugee children in Jordan (UNICEF).
- **Emergency assistance for poor herder families** in Syria (FAO).

*Sources:*

SDC, 'Iraq, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon'

[http://www.deza.admin.ch/en/Home/Countries/Near\\_and\\_Middle\\_East/Iraq\\_Jordan\\_Syria\\_Lebanon](http://www.deza.admin.ch/en/Home/Countries/Near_and_Middle_East/Iraq_Jordan_Syria_Lebanon)

### **Non-governmental organisations**

#### **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent**

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) works with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent to provide humanitarian assistance to people in Syria and refugees in the neighbouring countries. These activities include the provision of:

- **food parcels, mattresses, blankets, hygiene items, kitchen sets and other household items** to displaced persons in temporary school shelters and refugees in neighbouring countries
- **water or improved water sources**; and water and sanitation technicians to install water storage tanks and maintain acceptable levels of hygiene and sanitation in temporary school shelters for IDPs in the Adra al-Ommaliyeh area and in Damascus
- **mobile health services** that will serve several of the schools acting as temporary shelters
- **emergency health care**, medical and first aid supplies and services for the wounded and sick
- ambulance services around the clock to help people trapped by conflict
- services to restore family links between Syrians and relatives detained abroad

- workshops for Lebanese surgeons and nurses treating Syrian casualties in hospitals in northern Lebanon

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement are also helping Syrian refugees in neighbouring Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan and Iraq. National Societies in these countries are supporting people with first aid, ambulance missions, relief items, food, water and shelter.

*Sources:*

International Committee of the Red Cross:

<http://www.icrc.org/eng/where-we-work/middle-east/syria/index.jsp>

'Lebanon: what the ICRC is doing to help Syrian wounded and refugees', 1 July 2012

'Syria: helping civilians in Damascus cope with uncertainty', 24 July 2012

'Syria: ICRC and Syrian Arab Red Crescent continue to bring aid to distressed population', 27 July 2012

British Red Cross, 'Syria Crisis Appeal', 1 August 2012

<http://www.redcross.org.uk/What-we-do/Emergency-response/Current-emergency-appeals/Syria-Crisis-Appeal>

## **Islamic Relief**

Islamic Relief has been engaged in two key humanitarian activities since May 2011: providing medical aid and help for refugees.

- **Medical aid:** provision of anaesthetics, tetanus vaccinations, blood transfusion bags and a variety of antibiotics in the Syrian city of Homs.
- **Supporting refugees on the Lebanon and Jordan borders:** provision of food packages, rent subsidies, blankets, clothing and hygiene kits. Food packages distributed to Syrian refugees include rice, sugar, pasta, beans, cheese, lentils, powdered milk and tomato paste. The hygiene kits offered shampoo, laundry and washing soap, toothpaste and tissues.

*Sources:*

Islamic Relief, 'Lift the humanitarian siege in Syria', March 2012

<http://www.islamic-relief.com/Emergencies-And-Appeals/17-99-syria-crisis-response.aspx>

Islamic Relief, Syria Appeal

[http://www.islamic-relief.org.uk/Syria\\_Crisis\\_Emergency\\_Appeal.aspx](http://www.islamic-relief.org.uk/Syria_Crisis_Emergency_Appeal.aspx)

## **Zakat Foundation of America (ZF)**

The Zakat Foundation of America (ZF) has been providing humanitarian assistance to civilians in Syria and to refugees who have fled to Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon.

In Syria, activities include:

- opening of **field clinics** in a number of cities in addition to supporting field hospitals

- regular distribution of **food packages** and food
- provision of baby formula and diapers
- distribution of **medical supplies** including weekly first aid kits
- an **Orphan Sponsorship Program** for Syrian orphans and Syrian refugee children
- **housing provision** to displaced Syrians through apartment rentals.

In Syria and the refugee camps in neighbouring countries, the Foundation has provided medical and dental care, food packages, kitchen equipment and utensils, mattresses, blankets, clothing and housing rentals to those in need.

*Sources:*

Zakat Foundation of America

[http://www.zakat.org/where\\_we\\_work/campaign/syria/response\\_to\\_humanitarian\\_crisis\\_in\\_syria/](http://www.zakat.org/where_we_work/campaign/syria/response_to_humanitarian_crisis_in_syria/)

'Ramadan 2012-Providing Basic Necessities for Syrian Refugees in Lebanon', 30 July 2012

'ZF Provides More Housing in Damascus for Displaced Syrians', 20 July 2012

'Zakat Foundation of America Provides Over \$2.5 Million in Aid to the Humanitarian Crisis in Syria', 28 June 2012

### **Humanitarian Relief For Syria (HRS)**

Humanitarian Relief For Syria (HRS) is a charitable commission launched in 2011 to help the harmed and affected people as a result of the ongoing violence and protestations in Syria.

The two key projects are:

- **Child sponsorship:** this programme encourages people to sponsor humanitarian aid to orphaned children.
- **General relief:** this programme provides humanitarian assistance in line with ongoing needs assessments conducted by local partners operating in Syria.

*Source:*

Humanitarian Relief For Syria website

<http://www.syrianrelief.com/en/index-6.html>

### **International Medical Corps (IMC)**

International Medical Corps (IMC) is currently the only medical NGO helping the large urban refugee population that has resettled within the city limits of Damascus. Working with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, it delivers primary health care and mental health/psychosocial services through both static and mobile clinics and community centres in the Damascus area.

- IMC delivers comprehensive **primary health care services to Iraqi refugees and vulnerable Syrians** through its support of static clinics in the run-down suburban neighbourhoods of Jaramana, Masaken Barzeh and El Sayeda Zaineb where refugee populations have tended to congregate. It also operates three mobile clinics



that serve outlying semi-rural areas on the fringes of the city. The clinics offer a variety of services, including preventative and curative consultations, antenatal care for pregnant women, nutrition and growth monitoring for children under five, and routine primary health care needs. It also provides health education classes and distributes hygiene kits and delivery kits to pregnant women. In the static clinics, IMC conducts early childhood development trainings for parents and caregivers.

- As part of a regional Middle East initiative to support Iraqi refugees, IMC has trained a group of 24 primary care physicians in both theoretical and clinical aspects of **psychosocial care and recognition of mental illness**. It supports community centres in Damascus where it oversees psychosocial activities for young children, adolescents and young adults. Approximately 2,800 young people have taken part; they comprise roughly half local residents and half Iraqi refugees. The organisation has also opened a new child and family care centre in Judaidt Artoz for children with special needs.

*Source:*

International Medical Corps, 'Our Work in Syria' site

<http://internationalmedicalcorps.org/page.aspx?pid=378>

### **Action Contre La Faim**

Action Contre La Faim receives funding from UNHCR, UNICEF, AECID and SDC. It has worked in Syria since 2008, implementing a **food security programme** in order to support populations and refugees in their access to food and to reduce poverty. It has continued to operate in the country since the unrest began in 2011. The organisation is particularly concerned about **nutritional deficiencies of Iraqi refugees** in Syria, whose needs are unlikely to be met by the country. The organisation's food security/livelihoods activities comprise:

- **professional training** for Iraqi people
- training of teachers
- distribution of **tool kits** to raise people's autonomy
- identification of population's needs
- poverty alleviation and reinforcement of livelihoods and resilience against environmental impacts, through **agricultural programmes**, pastoral and livestock management and a 'marketing for the poor' approach.

*Source:*

Action Contre La Faim, 'Syria' website

<http://www.actioncontrelafaim.org/en/content/syria>

### **Premiere Urgence**

Premiere Urgence is a French NGO that has been present in Syria since 2007 and operational since 2008. It focuses on the education sector in support of the Syrian Ministry of Education and working with UNICEF and UNHCR. It aims to **encourage school attendance by Iraqi refugee pupils** in Syria through **improved classroom conditions and**

**increased capacity**, through the building of new schools and school extensions, refurbishment of existing state schools and contribution to school materials and equipment. The operational area for the projects is in Jaramana (a suburb of Damascus), where many Iraqi refugees reside alongside Syrian families and where primary and secondary schools are overcrowded.

In the short-term, Premiere Urgence is focused on addressing overpopulation and other problems in order to encourage school attendance of all Iraqi children of compulsory school age (6-15). In the more medium-term, it aims to focus on supporting Syrian state-run vocational secondary schools educating Iraqi students.

*Source:*

Premiere Urgence, 'Syria' site

[www.pu-](http://www.pu-ami.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=98&Itemid=139&lang=english)

[ami.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=98&Itemid=139&lang=english](http://www.pu-ami.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=98&Itemid=139&lang=english)

UNHCR, 'Opening of new school extensions helps new Iraqi refugee children to enroll in the suburbs of Damascus', 18 January 2011

<http://www.un.org.sy/press/PR%20Premiere%20Urgence%20Schools%20EN.pdf>

### **Danish Refugee Council (DRC)**

The Danish Refugee Council has engaged in various education and humanitarian assistance projects sponsored by UNHCR and DANIDA. Key projects involve **education and humanitarian assistance to Iraqi refugees in Syria**, in particular educational support and skills development. The aims are to expand/rehabilitate and equip public primary and secondary schools accommodating Iraqi children, to provide educational support to children and to improve the wellbeing of community members through social/recreational and skills development activities.

*Source:*

Danish Refugee Council – Syria, 'Humanitarian Accountability Framework', April 2011

[http://www.drc.dk/fileadmin/uploads/pdf/IA\\_PDF/Syria/Syria\\_HAF\\_Apr\\_2011.pdf](http://www.drc.dk/fileadmin/uploads/pdf/IA_PDF/Syria/Syria_HAF_Apr_2011.pdf)

## **3. Humanitarian work in Yemen**

### **Multilateral organisations**

#### **United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA)**

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) provides the following four core services in Yemen.

- Humanitarian reporting and advocacy through regular situation reports and snapshots, access reports and advocacy reports.

- Coordination of humanitarian dialogue and action.
- Information management that includes managing intra-cluster information and analysis, development of databases and standard reporting formats.
- Financial coordination and resource mobilisation.

OCHA maintains the Financial Tracking Service, which keeps track of the various humanitarian appeal projects for Yemen, the appealing agency and the funding status for each. This can be seen at:

[http://fts.unocha.org/reports/daily/ocha\\_R32\\_A951\\_2\\_August\\_2012\\_%2811\\_25%29.pdf](http://fts.unocha.org/reports/daily/ocha_R32_A951_2_August_2012_%2811_25%29.pdf)

Sources:

OCHA website

<http://www.unocha.org/where-we-work/yemen>

<http://www.unocha.org/ocha2012-13/yemen>

### **International Organization for Migration (IOM)**

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) has been operating in Abyan, on Yemen's southern coast. This area was badly affected by ongoing fighting that began in May 2011, resulting in the displacement of thousands of families. IOM is currently the only UN-affiliated organisation working directly in Abyan providing **emergency health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene**, and distributing essential non-food relief items to displaced families and host communities.

It started its first UN Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF) operations in September 2011, providing a range of primary health care services, health promotion, assisted medical referrals and psychological first aid in three districts – Sarar, Rusod and Sabah. As part of their medical services, IOM medical teams have treated cases of Global Acute Malnutrition among children.

With an increase in funding this year, it aims to expand its health, nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene interventions in the Abyan Governorate. The additional health and nutrition component will support:

- two **mobile health units**
- two community-based management of **acute malnutrition teams** targeting IDPs and host communities
- a minimum initial service package for **reproductive health**, a sexual and gender based violence response programme, and nutrition for pregnant women.

IOM will also work closely with district public health officials to revive primary health care services, including the provision of support for basic human resources, provision of medical supplies, community outreach and capacity building.

*Sources:*

IOM, 'UN Backs New IOM Health, Nutrition and Water Projects in Yemen's Abyan Governorate', 20 April 2012

<http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/media/press-briefing-notes/pbnAF/cache/offonce/lang/en?entryId=31704>

### **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**

In recent months, UNICEF has rapidly scaled-up nutrition interventions in Yemen to address the high acute malnutrition rate of children. More than 500 health facilities now provide **therapeutic nutrition interventions** with UNICEF support, and there are more over 250 operational supplementary feeding programmes.

**Improving child feeding practices** is an integral part of UNICEF supported nutrition interventions across Yemen. One of the key messages that UNICEF seeks to communicate is that newborn children should be exclusively breastfed for the first six months.

*Sources:*

UNICEF, 'In Yemen, therapeutic feeding centres treat child malnutrition, educate parents', 13 July 2012

[http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/yemen\\_65344.html](http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/yemen_65344.html)

### **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**

Key UNHCR activities involving asylum seekers, IDPs and refugees in Yemen from the Horn of Africa include the following.

- **Care and maintenance assistance** for the 15,000 camp-based refugees, including vocational training and tertiary education for both camp and non-camp refugees.
- Developing contingency plans for emergency responses for IDPs.
- **Documentation** to ensure protection within IDP operations, including profiling surveys and advocacy for the provision of birth certificates and national IDs.
- Provision of **emergency shelter or rental support** and non-food items.
- Support for community-based networks and **community centres** to provide opportunities for the communities to address their concerns and rights in places of return and displacement.

*Sources:*

UNHCR, '2012 UNHCR country operations profile - Yemen'

<http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/page?page=49e486ba6&submit=GO>

### **World Food Programme (WFP)**

WFP is providing a total of 1.3 million people in eight governorates with **seasonal food or cash assistance** to cover the essential food needs of the severely food insecure families who have no means to produce or buy the food they need. In response to rising need, WFP

has scaled-up its activities in 2012 to help 3.6 million people and aims to further expand its assistance in Yemen.

In late 2011, WFP began providing cash to the poorest families in the Hajjah and Ibb governorates of Yemen so that they could afford to buy food. The programme benefits 10,000 vulnerable households, comprising around 70,000 people in total. WFP partnered with the Yemen Post Office to conduct the transfers; the same distribution the government uses for its Social Welfare Fund. The cash transfer in Yemen completed its pilot phase in March 2012. The success of the scheme will be assessed in order to determine whether or not to expand the use of cash transfers in other areas, as well as increase the number of people benefiting from it.

*Sources:*

WFP – Yemen website

<http://www.wfp.org/countries/yemen>

Yemen: Poorest Households Receive Cash To Help With Food Costs, 15 March 2012

<http://www.wfp.org/stories/Transferring-Cash-in-Yemen-to-Help-Poorest-Households>

### **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**

FAO assistance to Yemen in the immediate term includes a US\$500,000 Technical Cooperation Programme project that is **providing poor smallholder farmers with 100 tonnes of millet, maize and sorghum seeds and 460 tonnes of improved wheat seed, as well as fertilisers**. More than 5000 vulnerable farming families are expected to benefit from the programme. The aim is to protect them against recent high prices and future price swings.

*Sources:*

FAO – Yemen website:

<http://www.fao.org/isfp/country-information/yemen/en/>

### **European Commission (EC)**

The European Commission's humanitarian assistance has helped to fund **food and supplementary feeding, water and sanitation, health care, tents and basic household items** for the internally displaced Yemenis, the victims of the ongoing food crisis and the refugees from the Horn of Africa.

*Sources:*

European Commission, 'The Commission boosts humanitarian funding in Yemen', 20 September 2011

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/11/1051&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

## **Bilateral partners**

### **U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)**

The United States has been providing funding for humanitarian assistance to help those most in need in Yemen. In June 2012, it announced the provision of additional assistance to support IDPs, refugees and migrants from the Horn of Africa, conflict victims and other vulnerable populations. The assistance will support the provision of:

- **clean water and proper sanitation**
- **hygiene** education and materials to help prevent the spread of illness
- **emergency food aid**, including therapeutic feeding centres for malnourished children
- **basic health services**, and medical and other relief supplies.

*Sources:*

USAID, 'United States Provides Additional Assistance to Yemen', 22 June 2012

<http://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/united-states-provides-additional-assistance-yemen-0>

'U.S. Provides More Humanitarian Aid to Yemen', 5 June 2012

<http://geneva.usmission.gov/2012/06/06/u-s-provides-more-humanitarian-aid-to-yemen/>

### **UK Department for International Development (DFID)**

The latest round of UK aid in Yemen will go to non-governmental organisations and humanitarian agencies with an established presence in Yemen allowing them to respond to needs as they emerge over the coming year. In particular, activities are expected to include the provision of:

- **emergency food** security support
- live-saving **nutrition support** for children
- **safe water and sanitation** to conflict-affected and displaced populations
- **hygiene kits** and household items
- **emergency shelter** for IDPs
- access to **health care** for IDPs and civilians in conflict-affected areas
- **access to education** for children living in conflict-affected areas
- **emergency livelihoods support**, including cash for work and agricultural inputs such as seeds, tools and fertiliser.

*Sources:*

DFID, 'Yemen: International support crucial for country in crisis', 22 May 2012

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/News/Latest-news/2012/Yemen-international-support-crucial-for-country-in-crisis/>

DFID, 'Yemen: UK aid to tackle humanitarian crisis', 13 March 2012

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/News/Latest-news/2012/yemen-aid-to-tackle-crisis/>

## **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)**

The SDC opened a programme office in Sana'a in February 2011 to improve access to information about humanitarian needs and monitor Swiss contributions more effectively. It seeks to address the needs of refugees and IDPs. Having initially provided support to Yemen primarily through multilateral channels, the SDC now runs a bilateral programme that combines humanitarian aid measures with development cooperation projects.

*Sources:*

SDC – Yemen website

[http://www.deza.admin.ch/en/Home/Countries/Near\\_and\\_Middle\\_East/Yemen](http://www.deza.admin.ch/en/Home/Countries/Near_and_Middle_East/Yemen)

## **Non-governmental organisations**

### **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Yemen Red Crescent**

The ICRC and Yemen Red Crescent have been supporting resident and displaced families throughout Yemen through the **provision of water, food and non-food items, emergency assistance, water and medical supplies and the deployment of field surgical teams** to help the injured. They also support **income-generating projects** to support internally displaced people who wish to return to their villages.

The ICRC also continues visits to detainees held by various authorities in Yemen, to assess their conditions of detention and treatment. The ICRC and Yemen Red Crescent help members of separated families stay in touch.

*Sources:*

ICRC, 'The ICRC in Yemen'

<http://www.icrc.org/eng/where-we-work/middle-east/yemen/index.jsp>

### **Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED)**

ACTED's first emergency team arrived in Sana'a, Yemen, in October 2011, to assist in relief activities in response to the ongoing crisis in Sa'ada governorate, north of the country. Initial focus areas have included the provision of emergency shelter and non-food items and livestock protection in IDP camps.

ACTED also aims to engage in water and food security projects:

- **Building and rehabilitating of water systems** in eight local schools in rural areas of the central-western governorates of Ibb and Raymah. The aim is to decrease the transmission of waterborne diseases such as diarrhoea among pupils. The availability of proper sanitation facilities could also contribute to an increase in schooling for girls. The project is supported by the European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department.

- **Addressing food insecurity** in Yemeni households in the governorate of Ibb, Raymah and Ad-Dalee through the provision of alternative sources of income and agricultural inputs to vulnerable families. The aim is to improve their access to food and strengthen their economic capacities. This, alongside water, sanitation and hygiene activities, forms part of an integrated strategy of combating malnutrition. This project is supported by the U.S. Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA).

*Sources:*

ACTED in Yemen website

<http://www.acted.org/en/yemen>

Yemen: ACTED will improve school sanitation in rural areas, 2 July 2012

Yemen: ACTED will extend humanitarian coverage to highly food insecure governorates, 27 April 2012

## **Oxfam**

Oxfam has been working in Yemen for approximately 30 years, cooperating with government authorities and civil society organisations, to improve health care and livelihoods. In particular, its activities include the provision of:

- **water, sanitation and hygiene** services for up to 60,000 people displaced by conflict in northern and southern Yemen
- **livelihood support** to hundreds of families
- **health services** for women, including mobile health teams for rural areas and training of midwives and female health workers
- **cash transfers to vulnerable families** who do not have enough food to eat to help them meet their basic needs; Oxfam has recently reported that its cash for food programmes in Hajjah in northern Yemen and in the rural area of Al Hodeidah on Yemen's west coast are being undermined by insufficient funding.

*Sources:*

Oxfam International, 'Yemen'

<http://www.oxfam.org/yemen>

Yemen food crisis: people left without aid as funding fails to arrive, 19 July 2012

<http://www.oxfam.org/en/pressroom/pressrelease/2012-07-19/yemen-food-crisis-people-left-without-aid-funding-fails-arrive>

## **Mercy Corps**

Mercy Corps has worked in Yemen since 2010. Its programmes aim to address immediate needs, build community resilience and help young people prevent conflict, develop their skills and take advantage of economic opportunities. Mercy Corps has launched several new humanitarian programmes to meet the needs of vulnerable families throughout Yemen, which it seeks to connect to longer term development to help communities become more self-sufficient. Its programming focuses on providing clean water and sanitation services,



increasing food supplies, protecting children against violence from the conflict and addressing their mental health needs. In particular:

- **Restoring basic water and sanitation supply systems** in the city of Taiz and helping to prevent the outbreak of water-related diseases. Mercy Corps is providing equipment and materials to repair valves, pipes and generators in pumping stations, improving chlorination systems, supplying test kits and conducting hygiene awareness trainings. Funding is provided by OCHA.
- The provision of **emergency food rations** to vulnerable families (particularly female-headed households and those with children under five years old or pregnant or lactating women) in Taiz who are suffering from acute malnutrition. This is being achieved through a voucher system, which allows people to purchase food in local markets. Funding is provided by USAID's Food for Peace.
- **Psychosocial support to vulnerable children** in conflict-affected schools in Sana'a through the creation of 'child-friendly spaces' where children can safely play and learn. Mercy Corp is also helping to establish referral mechanisms so local people can more easily connect with available resources that support the mental health of children and youth. Funding is provided by OCHA.

*Sources:*

Mercy Corps, 'Yemen: Responding to humanitarian needs and helping people manage conflict'

<http://www.mercycorps.org/countries/yemen/26844>

## **Relief International**

Relief International works with the U.S. Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance to provide **emergency shelter** for displaced people residing inside camps and in host communities. They provide shelter packages beyond a basic tent. This includes technical assistance and labour to help beneficiaries to construct their shelters in a way that reduces health hazards and is resilient to weather. The organisation targets female-headed households and provides private spaces for women and girls in their shelter arrangements.

Relief International also provides **primary health care services** including: prenatal and delivery care; mosquito nets distribution; children vaccination; maternal health services; behavioural change education; and communicable disease diagnosis and treatment. It engages in the upgrade of health facility sanitation and in the training of community members in health programming.

*Sources:*

Relief International, 'Yemen' site

[http://www.ri.org/where\\_we\\_work/country.php?ID=24](http://www.ri.org/where_we_work/country.php?ID=24)

## Islamic Relief

Islamic Relief is engaging in various humanitarian activities in Yemen. These include:

- systematic **food distribution**, basic **health service delivery** and **emergency nutrition** for IDPs
- **camp management and protection of IDPs**
- construction and rehabilitation of **health centres**
- improved access to **safe drinking water**
- delivery of **hygiene kits** to IDPs
- **support to orphans.**

It was recently reported that lack of funding is undermining Islamic Relief's ability to expand its nutrition and early recovery assistance.

*Sources:*

Islamic Relief, 'Islamic Relief Response in Yemen'

<http://www.islamic-relief.com/Emergencies-And-Appeals/1-104-yemen-appeal.aspx>

Yemen food crisis: people left without aid as funding fails to arrive, 19 July 2012

<http://www.oxfam.org/en/pressroom/pressrelease/2012-07-19/yemen-food-crisis-people-left-without-aid-funding-fails-arrive>

## Care International

Care has been working with displaced populations and communities, focusing on the provision of **safe drinking water and sanitation facilities** (building latrines, rehabilitating wells, installing water tanks), in close cooperation with local branches of the Yemen Women's Union. It also aims to provide training to volunteers about better health practices. Care is also **supporting livelihoods**, for example through the provision of livestock.

*Sources:*

Care International – Yemen website

<http://www.careinternational.org.uk/where-we-work/yemen>

Care International, 'Yemen: desperate humanitarian need', 12 March 2012

<http://www.careinternational.org.uk/news-and-press/latest-news-features/2011-yemen-desperate-humanitarian-need>

## Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF)

MSF has been providing **basic medical and emergency assistance** in Yemen. In 2011, it provided such assistance in Jaar and set up stabilisation and ambulance referral systems. In Sana'a, MSF donated drugs and medical supplies to public and private health facilities, and provided additional training for the management of incidents involving large numbers of injured patients. Staff also ran an ambulance service and carried out surgery at a private health centre for two months.

Sources:

MSF, 'Focus on Yemen' 2011

<http://www.msf.org.uk/yemen.focus?gclid=CNvttoiSxLECFMhtAodPDMAJQ>

## ZOA

In May 2012, ZOA decided to start a three-year Disaster Response Operation in Yemen in two conflict areas, Arhab district and Hajja Governorate, in cooperation with Vision Hope International (VHI). Focus will be on improving the living conditions by **improving drinking water, sanitation and livelihoods** of those affected by the current humanitarian crisis in central and northern Yemen, with focus on displaced communities, and where needed, on non-displaced communities.

ZOA will provide support in the field of water, sanitation and hygiene, which are key concerns in the communities. Host communities are included to prevent tension. It will be investigated whether a programme can be designed that can be rolled out for both host population and returnees as both struggle with similar structural issues like food insecurity and lack of drinking water.

The programme will focus on both relief and recovery. The longer term focus is on resettlement of displaced groups and restoration of their livelihoods. This intervention is preferred over relief since it offers more possibilities for structural change.

Sources:

Zoa International – Yemen website

<http://www.zoa-international.com/yemen>

## Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)

ADRA has been active in Yemen since 1995, focusing on primary health care, economic development, education and food security. Its main target groups are women, children and the poor, as well as people with special needs and refugees. It has completed various projects targeting refugees, including a **community-based project for refugees** at Basateen, Aden and Kharaz Refugee Camp, Lahij Governorate, funded by UNHCR. The project aimed to:

- promote community development and participation
- provide psychosocial support and assistance to refugee with special needs
- prevent and respond to sexual and gender based violence (SGBV)
- promote vocational training and labour insertion
- promote peace building, reconciliation and community environment security and protection.

Another project aimed at Somali, Ethiopian and other refugees living in Sana'a governorate involved the following activities:

- training courses, for example in English, computers, vocational skills
- support mechanisms, such as day care facilities and awareness raising sessions

- employment centre, providing services such as job placement and background checks
- cultural and sporting activities.

The aims of the project were to improve the livelihood skills of refugees, improve support mechanisms for refugee women and children, and facilitate social adjustment and leadership within the refugee population.

*Sources:*

ADRA website

<http://adrayemen.org/programs>

### **Danish Refugee Council (DRC)**

DRC works on the Red Sea coastline in Yemen in partnership with the Yemen Red Crescent to receive people arriving on the shores, mostly Somalis and Ethiopians. It also undertakes **registration of the newly arrived refugees and asylum seekers** on the Gulf of Aden and provides them with basic assistance.

DRC also works in close collaboration with the Government of Yemen and the local authorities in five governorates (Ta'iz, Aden, Lahj, Abyan, Shabwa), the Yemen Red Crescent, UNHCR, non-governmental organisations and the local communities in a bid to deliver **better and professional humanitarian services for refugees and asylum seekers** in the country.

*Sources:*

Danish Refugee Council – Yemen website

<http://www.drc.dk/relief-work/where-we-work/horn-of-africa-and-yemen/yemen/>

**About helpdesk research reports:** This helpdesk report is based on three days of desk-based research. Helpdesk reports are designed to provide a brief overview of the key issues; and a summary of some of the best literature available. Experts are contacted during the course of the research, and those able to provide input within the short time-frame are acknowledged.