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Humanitarian Emergency Fund

Syria, Yemen and South Sudan

Case Studies:

- **British Red Cross**
- **Mercy Corps**
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BritishRedCross



British Red Cross in Syria

The British Red Cross has a long-standing partnership with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) as part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. They have provided technical support, training, aid experts and funding for crucial staff and equipment, as well as emergency food parcels, blankets, mattresses and other aid, in addition to National Society development.

The crisis in Syria has largely affected infrastructure all over the country, and water networks have paid a heavy price, making it a scarce resource. Displacement has further worsened people's access to water. The Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), in cooperation with partners, has been working relentlessly to ensure people's water needs are met.

In the village of Ghossom in the Dara'a Governorate, the Water and Construction Management team of SARC, in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) set up in January 2019 a concrete reservoir of a 100 cubic meter capacity, and a pumping station that is now benefitting 8,000 people in the area.

Also, in the Dara'a governorate, more than 150,000 people are now benefitting from two transformers for water pumping stations installed by both SARC and the ICRC.



SARC's response to secure people have access to water has also been supported by the British Red Cross in recent months. In December 2018, and as part of a 45-day response in the governorate, volunteers distributed Jerrycans with a 10-20 capacity, in addition to clean water bottles to 100,000 people.

Moreover in 2018, SARC and the ICRC set up 33 wells, and installed 2052 water tanks in rural Damascus, benefitting 2,891,981 people in the area.

The crisis in Syria is far from over, and while the conflict's nature has changed, people's needs are still emerging. SARC, supported by partners in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and other humanitarian actors in the country, will continue to be there for the people of Syria, responding to all needs, including water and sanitation.

(Photo credits: Syrian Red Crescent)



Mercy Corps in Yemen

The situation in Yemen has been described by the UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres in April 2018 as the world's worst humanitarian crisis. This complex and protracted emergency is having severe humanitarian consequences upon the Yemeni population.

The scarcity of water has been critical, with people being forced to take water from unprotected sources. This led to many people being re-infected with acute watery diarrhoea. Mercy Corps intervened in the IDP communities through the Hodeidah Emergency WASH Assistance (HEWA) programme. Among its many activities, the most significant has been to supplement the water trucking effort of the Bura and Al-Sukhna districts.



The water truck filling an installed water tank/point in Al Sukhna district.

Despite the persistent insecurity and challenges of accessibility, including the continued displacement of families from the original target location, Mercy Corps has responded to the acute water, sanitation and health (WASH) needs of extremely vulnerable households.



People from the IDP and Host communities queue for water at the water point constructed in Bura District.

- Approximately 5,000 households have been provided with at least 20 litres of clean drinking water, trucked through on a daily basis. These households include 3,500 families who fled to Alkhabt district of Al Mahwit Governorate and 1,500 households who moved to Bura and Al Sukknah districts of Hudaydah Governorate.
- A total of 65 water tanks were installed at strategic locations thereby reducing the walking distance to collect water from one kilometre to no more than 500 meters:
 - Each water tank was fitted with at least four functioning water outlets to reduce queuing time to less than thirty minutes.

- A total of 5,800 20-litre Jerrycans were purchased and distributed to households with on-site demonstrations on cleaning the Jerrycans.
- The drinking water was chlorinated, using standard chlorination protocols at the water source, and the water quality monitored by Mercy Corps staff. The water trucks were monitored on a daily basis and random chlorine residual water testing at the point of delivery by use of DelAgua water-quality testing kits were conducted.

Photo credits: Mercy CorpsEurope

Tearfund in South Sudan

Armed conflict in South Sudan has resulted in massive population displacement and has caused severe disruption to livelihoods, trade and access to humanitarian assistance. In Greater Mundri specifically, access to, and availability of, food has been severely limited due to prolonged conflict that has continuously disrupted people's livelihoods activities and has led to families having consecutively below average harvests.

A food security needs assessment conducted by Tearfund partner, SEM, in 2018 in Greater Mundri further revealed that 83 per cent of the community members were still food insecure (skipping meals or eating one small meal a day). Key informant interviews and focus group discussions indicated that inadequate intake of food had caused malnutrition, lowering resistance to disease and making the affected people highly vulnerable to diseases.

With generous support from the Scottish Government, Tearfund in South Sudan and local partner, SEM, implemented an emergency food distribution project targeting 500 vulnerable households (c4,500 people) to receive emergency food relief, giving each household enough food to meet their household needs for 1.5 months. Vulnerable women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities were particularly targeted.

This story is told by Dokubu Sebit, 68 years of age and living in the Wowo Payam.



“My name is Dokubu Sebit, I live in Liabule village in Baher-elgrindi County. I have been visually impaired since I was 33 years old. I have five grandchildren who solely depend on me. With my impairment, I find it challenging to fend for myself and my family since I am not able to walk alone to carry out activities that other people do to get both food and money.

Before the food assistance project by SEM and Tearfund in our village, I used to go to the market to beg from the shops and the roadside but that is no longer the case. I was selected to be one of the beneficiaries since I am old and also visually impaired. From this project, me and other selected community members were given food items, cooking oil and salt. Even as we are

talking now, I still have some food items remaining in my house. Apart from the food assistance, I was also provided with a stick that is assisting me to move from one place to another.”

“I am very thankful that I no longer go to the markets to beg, because we have food to eat, my family is able to take at least two meals in a day. My grandchildren are happy, though I cannot see them but I can always hear them play around with a lot of joy. My health has improved because I rest at home and have food to eat. Also I am happy that now I do not rely so much on my grandchildren to support me move around. “I am thankful to SEM, Tearfund and everyone who support them to reach people like me. God bless you all.”

This is Michael Jele's story. Michael is 45 years of age and lives in Mvolo.



“My name is Michael, I live in Mvolo with my wife and seven children, four girls and three boys’. My wife and I are both visually impaired and my last-born son as well. We normally face challenges in getting food and other needs of the family because we are not able to move without assistance.

I am very thankful to talk to you even although I don't see you, but I can listen and you can get what I can say. There was community mobilization last month and there was awareness on food assistance distribution and the criteria of selection the most vulnerable people in

Mvolo Payam by SEM/Tearfund. I was happy even although we are both visual impaired, my wife was selected and we received a good quality and quantity of food items for the first time, I thank God because we have enough food from nothing. These foods helped us, we able to eat three times in a day and it will help us to the time of our new harvest from our farm.”

“As I said we are vulnerable next time we need non-food items to be added to us and I would want to say good work for your SEM/Tearfund team in Mvolo and may God help you to support more targeted vulnerable people, we still look for more support.”

Photo credits: Tearfund