

Mobile Medical Teams in Hajjah governorate



FAST FACTS: Yemen

- Only 45% of Yemen's health facilities are functional.
- Ministry budget cuts mean healthcare personnel are not being paid.
- Immunization coverage is declining.
- More than 65% of the population lives in rural areas.
- There are only 10 health workers for every 10,000 people in Hajjah governorate.

Yemen is the poorest country in the Middle East, and ongoing violence further strains its resources. A full-scale war has been raging since March 2015 at enormous cost to Yemen's people.

More than 2.5 million people are displaced but, despite the needs, there are no proper camps. The country's infrastructure is crumbling, and hundreds of health facilities have been forced to close due to damage and lack of resources. With a 50% reduction in patient consultations, rates of infectious diseases are rising, maternal and child health is declining, vaccinations are limited, and access to clean water and sanitary facilities has been massively reduced. In Hajjah governorate, there are only 10 health workers for every 10,000 people.

Separated from healthcare and clean water by conflict, nearly 15 million Yemenis — half the country's population — are in desperate need of basic medical attention. Another 4.5 million lie on the brink of famine.

But every day we try:

Relief International works in some of Yemen's most remote areas, serving some of its most desperate populations.

For Yemen's many remote communities that are too far away from health facilities and would otherwise have no services, we use mobile medical teams (4x4 mobile health facilities), which travel in weekly circuits between villages, delivering primary healthcare mostly to children and women, including treating chronic diseases; vaccinating children; and delivering safe delivery kits, maternal health services such as birth-planning workshops, post-natal care lessons, family planning.

The mobile medical teams also treat children suffering from acute malnutrition and the services are supported by a network of qualified midwives and community health volunteers. These local people work to build awareness in the

villages of the services available at the mobile medical team sites and to promote knowledge of health – especially maternal and newborn health. Household hygiene kits, which include basic items such as soap and a water bucket, are distributed to help families maintain their health and hygiene, even while displaced.

Funding from the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) is supporting

Relief International to operate 3 mobile medical teams in Hajjah governorate. The success of Relief International's efforts so far has been huge and well noted. The local authorities in Al Hudaydah and Hajjah governorates have recently recommended all other organizations start mimicking the structure and modality of our mobile medical teams throughout the Hudaydah Zone. On 29th March 2017 during the Al Hudaydah sub cluster meeting, we delivered a presentation on the way we use mobile medical teams. Based on this, the Governorate Health Office, the Executive Unit of Hudaydah, and all sub cluster partners agreed to start using RI's mobile medical team modality and structure in future programming.

It's a compliment to the work Relief International is doing with generous support from ECHO and to all our dedicated staff and volunteers that our system of mobile medical teams should become standard operation design in these areas.



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