



VISION**HOPE**

CHOLERA RESPONSE, YEMEN

ADDRESSING THE GREATEST NEEDS IN EMERGENCIES

BENEFICIARIES:	78.429 individuals
PROJECT DURATION:	February to September 2017
DONORS:	Yemen Humanitarian Pool Fund of UN OCHA, WHO and Tearfund UK
PROJECT LOCATION	Hajjah and Al Mahweet, Yemen
PROJECT BUDGET:	1.307.402 Euro
PROJECT PARTNER:	Implementation by Vision Hope Yemen
SECTOR:	Health, WASH

BACKGROUND

The conflict in Yemen has developed into a long-lasting humanitarian disaster and the situation is rapidly deteriorating in large parts of the country. UN OCHA estimates that 21.2 million people, 80% of the population, are dependent on humanitarian aid. There is limited financial support for hospitals and health facilities particularly in the rural areas. The health system in Yemen has collapsed largely. Medical and hygienic treatment cannot be ensured - also the families are lacking means for basic hygiene. By mid 2017, Yemen has moved into a slow-onset crisis in outbreak of communicable diseases such as Cholera.



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PREVENTION AND MITIGATION //

When identifying the needs within Yemen, the governorate of Hajjah has been majorly affected by a cholera outbreak. The risks are particularly high in populations already weakened by war, poverty and poor nutrition.

The cholera response of Vision Hope is aligned with the objectives of national and international strategies and approaches the situation with two components:

- (1) Rehabilitation and equipment of health facilities
- (2) Support for affected families and individuals

The activities are supported through UN OCHA, Tearfund UK and a project approval with the WHO is in the last stages.

REHABILITATION OF HEALTH FACILITIES //

The current war, poverty, poor health infrastructure and deterioration of water, sanitation and hygiene services have affected the rapid outbreak of cholera. Also, the spread of diseases is especially likely within the health facilities: a sufficient and hygienic cleaning is not given. The current outbreak has strained an already overburdened health care system in Hajjah.

The health facilities are not able to respond to the needs of the patients. The problems range from lack of staff, lack of salaries for the staff, missing medicines or consumables to the lack of knowledge in cholera treatments.

Vision Hope responded to these issues through (1) identifying health facilities that are in need, but also capable for case management, (2) rehabilitating the sanitation facilities within them, (3) further equipping the facilities with hand- and foot-washing stations, medicine, consumables, chlorine and cleaning supplies.

As water is scarce in Yemen, (4) some facilities have been supported with water trucking.

OBJECTIVE

Contributing to improving the living conditions of affected people through an integrated WASH and Health Cholera Emergency Response.

OUTCOMES

- (1) Improved capacity of treatment and case management in health facilities.
- (2) Provision of treatment and related medicine for cholera cases in various districts.
- (2) Improved hygiene management and personal hygiene and raised awareness to prevent and mitigate cholera.
- (4) Provision of cholera hygiene kits to affected families within the targeted communities.

The training and support in ensuring the hygienic situation in the facilities was from utmost importance. In each facility, dedicated staff was trained on chlorination and cleaning standards.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT //

Secondly, the individuals and families in the rural and urban communities of the governorates have been supported through hygiene promotion and the provision of cholera hygiene kits.

The hygiene kits are equipped to meet their basic hygiene needs and to reduce the cholera spread: soaps, detergent, jerry cans, aquatabs for chlorination and other items have been included.

The distribution of the kits is accompanied by specifically trained hygiene promoters, who approached the communities in household visits to explain chlorination tablets, hand washing and other necessities. We strongly believe in the work on community level to effectively handle the challenging situation.