

CONCEPT NOTE

“The Humanitarian Response in Yemen”

High-Level Event in the Margins of the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly

24 September 2018, 13:15 – 14:30, Conference Room 11

Background

More than three years of conflict are driving major increases in needs across all sectors. Ensuring that families have enough food, preventing another cholera outbreak and assisting those affected by escalating conflict are top priorities. Some 22.2 million people, including 2 million internally displaced people and 1 million returnees require humanitarian aid or protection in Yemen. Partners estimate that 8.4 million people are severely food insecure, and a further 10 million could fall into the same status by the end of the year without urgent action. More than 1.1 million cases of acute watery diarrhoea or cholera have been reported since April 2017, and another large-scale epidemic is possible. Conflict has escalated in recent months, with more than 500,000 people displaced from their homes in Hudaydah Governorate since 1 June. These and other challenges are aggravated by limited imports of critical commodities necessary for basic survival; lack of salary payments for essential service providers and other public employees; and collapsing basic services, especially in the health, water, sanitation and education sectors.

Issues and Significance

- In April 2018, donors pledged over \$2 billion for humanitarian action in Yemen. As of mid-July, 91 per cent of these pledges had been disbursed. The 2018 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (YHRP) has received 61 per cent of its \$3 billion requirements. Substantial, flexible funding available early in the year – including a \$930 million unearmarked grant from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to the 2018 YHRP – has allowed the humanitarian operation to continue to expand.
- The humanitarian response reaches more than 7 million people every month across Yemen. The number of people reached has increased consistently across sectors during the year, demonstrating the capacity of the response to keep pace with changing needs.
- Despite this progress, humanitarian partners continue to face significant challenges. These include impediments to humanitarian action such as movement restrictions, attempted interference and harassment, as well as increasing needs due to fluctuating

commercial import levels and collapsing basic services. Progress in the response is also taking place against the backdrop of escalating conflict and growing concerns over protection of civilians.

Expected outcomes

- Member States and partners have a better understanding of the humanitarian dimension of the conflict and its effect on Yemeni civilians.
- Member States and partners appreciate the enormous scale of the humanitarian operation and its life-saving impact, and recognize the strong capacity of humanitarian partners working through the UN-coordinated response.
- Member States and partners see value in their contributions to the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan as per achievements made, and remain committed to providing continuous financial support.
- Member States and partners understand the challenges facing the humanitarian response and appreciate efforts to scale up.
- Member States see the urgency of supporting the efforts of the UN Special Envoy of the Secretary-General and pressing for a political solution to the conflict.

Format and (draft) Programme

The event will showcase the positive impact of life-saving humanitarian assistance and services to people affected by the crisis and how this would not be possible without the generous contributions made by Member States and partners. A short film will be screened, very recently filmed on the ground. The event will also highlight the challenges faced by partners, drawing attention to concerns over protection of civilians.

The event will last 75 minutes, from 13.15 - 14.30 hrs, and be chaired by USG/ERC Mark Lowcock.

Opening remarks by USG/ERC Lowcock

Briefing on the current humanitarian situation in Yemen by Ms. Lise Grande, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Yemen

Remarks by Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, World Health Organization

Remarks by Ms. Kelly Clements, UN Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees

Remarks by Ms. Helle Thorning-Schmidt, CEO of Save the Children International

Remarks by Ms. Mai Al Eryani, Yemeni Women Union

Interventions from the floor will be welcomed. This event will be webcast.