

**UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS AND  
EMERGENCY RELIEF COORDINATOR, STEPHEN O'BRIEN**

**REMARKS AT THE LAUNCH OF THE REVISED 2015 YEMEN  
HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN**

*Geneva, 19 June 2015*

*As delivered*

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are here today to raise the alarm about the looming humanitarian catastrophe in Yemen.

Since March, the conflict has intensified and so has the human suffering. Millions of Yemenis who were already in dire need of aid are now living in even more desperate conditions.

It is difficult to comprehend that over 21 million Yemenis – 80 per cent of the country's population – are in need of some form of aid to meet their basic needs or protect their fundamental rights.

One Yemeni woman told my colleagues that without a political solution soon, there will be nothing left of the country. Another described trying to keep her family going in 'stone age' conditions – without electricity, water or reliable supplies of food.

I will leave it to the Humanitarian Coordinator, Johannes van der Klaauw, to tell you more about the grim statistics that characterize this deteriorating situation. With the conflict now having spread to virtually the entire country, more and more civilians are being killed, injured and displaced with each passing day.

A pause during Ramadan remains elusive. Supplies of food, water, fuel and medicines are dangerously low; food insecurity has soared to worrying levels; the health system is on the brink of collapse. International humanitarian and human rights laws have reportedly been violated several times. And more people are being forced to make the harrowing decision to flee their homes, with many seeking refuge abroad.

Despite the tremendous challenges and risks of working in this war zone, humanitarian partners on the ground are doing what they can to save and protect lives. Since March, emergency food assistance has been delivered to over 1.9 million people; 900,000 litres

of fuel has been provided to hospitals, clinics and health centres to ensure the continued functioning of essential health services; and fuel has been provided to pumping stations in 11 cities, helping a total of 7.3 million people to access safe water.

The UN and partners have been coordinating closely both inside Yemen and in Amman, Riyadh and Djibouti, under the leadership of Regional Humanitarian Coordinator Amer Daoudi, to support the response. But given the scale, intensity, daily deterioration and access challenges, despite our best efforts, we are falling far short of the needs. More reliable access, funding and the resumption of commercial imports are urgently needed. A political solution to the crisis is the most urgent need of all.

Today we are launching the revised 2015 Humanitarian Response Plan for Yemen which requests US\$1.5 billion to assist 11.7 million of the most vulnerable people across Yemen for the rest of this year. Some US\$757 million of this money is for the most critical, priority activities. These financial requirements are huge but, I assure you, are rigorously commensurate with the immense life-saving needs.

This plan includes lifesaving programmes for all Yemenis in need, including refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants, based on the humanitarian principles of independence, impartiality and neutrality.

In the absence of a political solution, we must find ways of helping the people of Yemen to endure this crisis. We are counting on the support and generosity of Member States to do so.

Thank you.