



# YEMEN CONFERENCE 2020

HIGH-LEVEL PLEDGING EVENT FOR THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN YEMEN



**Tuesday, 2 June 2020**

Virtual Event

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## Concept note

Last update: 11 May

***“The Secretary General...reiterates the importance of sustaining the humanitarian operation, which is being implemented in challenging conditions, but is providing life-saving assistance to millions of Yemenis.”***

— Spokesperson for **António Guterres**, United Nations Secretary-General

***“Yemen remains both the world’s largest crisis and its largest humanitarian response. Millions of people depend on this response to survive, and we must do everything we can to ensure that help reaches all those who need it in accordance with humanitarian principles.”***

**Mark Lowcock**, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator

## Background

In 2020, Yemen remains the world’s largest humanitarian crisis. The cumulative impact of the conflict, economic decline and institutional collapse has left 24 million people – or about 80 per cent of the population – in need of humanitarian aid and protection. The scale of the needs is staggering, and COVID-19 – confirmed in Yemen as of 10 April and rapidly spreading – threatens to exacerbate them further. But Yemen is also the world’s largest humanitarian response, where more than 200 humanitarian organizations work together to assist more than 13 million people across the country every month.

## Contacts

For more information please visit:  
[www.unocha.org/Yemen2020](http://www.unocha.org/Yemen2020)

For inquires or administrative matters kindly contact:

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## Registration

Kindly limit the response to one registration per delegation.

The information requested includes the focal point for the virtual meeting.

Please click here:  
<https://bit.ly/2STPRHy>

These programmes are making an enormous difference. In the last year, large-scale assistance has played a central role in bringing Yemen back from the brink of famine, rolling back a resurgent cholera epidemic and helping families fleeing violence, among other accomplishments. These programmes also provide an essential line of defence against the COVID-19 pandemic for millions of people.

At almost every turn, humanitarian agencies have faced serious obstacles. Agencies and donors are working together to address unacceptable restrictions on aid delivery, particularly in the north. This partnership will help maintain principled aid delivery at the scale required for the millions of people who depend on it to survive.

Without additional funds, life-saving programmes are starting to reduce or close down. Pledging now will clearly demonstrate to Yemenis that the international community is not abandoning them while they still urgently need help.

## Event

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Nations are convening a virtual High-Level Pledging Event for the Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen. This event will take forward the world's commitment to alleviating suffering in Yemen, while respecting global public health advice to minimize in-person events during the coronavirus pandemic.

The event will take place on 2 June 2020 and will connect participants from around the world through a managed **virtual meeting**.

**More information regarding the format and technical requirements of the virtual meeting will be shared in due course with registered participants.**

## Co-hosts

Minister for Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, **His Highness Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud**  
Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, **Mr. Mark Lowcock**  
on behalf of Secretary-General of the United Nations, **His Excellency Mr. António Guterres**

## Objectives

- Raise awareness of the severe humanitarian crisis in Yemen. Advocate urgent action by the international community to address acute humanitarian needs.
- Mobilize resources for the humanitarian response in Yemen, highlighting the UN-coordinated response to provide life-saving humanitarian assistance and protection across the country.
- Highlight the capacity and commitment of humanitarian partners to deliver assistance across the country and draw attention to recent significant achievements in mitigating the risk of famine, rolling back cholera and other accomplishments.
- Promote respect for international humanitarian law and human rights. Demonstrate international community's unwavering commitment to unhindered humanitarian access and requirement that assistance be delivered strictly in line with humanitarian principles.
- Reinforce progress towards and continue to advocate a political solution for Yemen.

## Participation

The event will be convened from 08:00 – 12:00 New York time by virtual teleconference.

Advanced registration is mandatory. All Member States are invited, as well as leaders of relevant regional organizations; development finance institutions; United Nations agencies, funds and programmes; and representatives from relevant humanitarian non-governmental organizations.

Member States are asked to participate at ministerial level. The co-hosts will provide detailed guidance on how to connect to the meeting upon registration.

Member States are strongly encouraged to commit financial support to Yemen ahead of the event. Any contributions and pledges made as of **1 January 2020** or announced for 2020 will be counted towards the overall event announcement.

## Agenda and format

### The event will consist of four sessions:

Opening statements: The co-hosts (the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Nations) will open the event with brief statements. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, **His Excellency Mr. António Guterres** will participate live in the opening session.

Statements and announcements: Statements and announcement of pledges by participating delegates should be limited to three minutes maximum. The chairs will give the floor for Minister-level delegates followed by other participants. UN Agencies and NGOs may also make statements. Interventions will be via virtual teleconference and facilitated by the co-hosts.

Signing Ceremony: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will sign an agreement with the United Nations.

Closing session: Closing remarks will be made by the co-hosts (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Nations).