



YEMEN CONFERENCE 2022

HIGH-LEVEL PLEDGING EVENT FOR THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN YEMEN

GENEVA / HYBRID EVENT

WEDNESDAY 16 MARCH 2022

9:30 - 12:30 NEW YORK / 14:30 - 17:30 GENEVA / 16:30 - 19:30 YEMEN



PHOTO BY GILLES CLARKE FOR UNOCHA

Concept note

Last update: 23 February 2022

“Yemen is in a severe humanitarian crisis. I urge donors and all other stakeholders to enable humanitarian relief efforts with adequate funding, access and other support.”

– António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General

“As the conflict enters its seventh year, millions of people continue to suffer in Yemen. We need urgent support to continue our work to save lives. But we also need to address the underlying drivers of the crisis – this will help to make people less vulnerable, build their ability to withstand shocks and give them hope for the future.”

– Martin Griffiths, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator

Background

In 2021, the humanitarian community delivered lifesaving assistance to more than 11 million vulnerable people across Yemen every month. This was made possible by the generous support of donors, who provided \$2.3 billion last year for the humanitarian operation.

In 2022, the outlook in Yemen remains bleak. After seven years of crisis, humanitarian needs remain intractably high, as millions of people are at risk of hunger, disease, displacement and violence. For many, the situation will soon become much worse. At the start of this year, a significant escalation in the conflict has had a devastating impact on civilians. At the same time, funding shortages have forced humanitarian organisations

Registration

Kindly limit the response to one registration per delegation. The information requested includes the focal point for the meeting.

<https://bit.ly/Yemen2022>

Contacts

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to cut lifesaving aid. As of January 2022, two-thirds of major UN aid programmes have been reduced or closed due to funding shortages. This has left millions without access to vital assistance, with further cuts on the way in the coming weeks unless urgent funding is received.

While essential, the humanitarian response alone cannot sustainably scale back suffering or solve this crisis. In addition to supporting the ongoing aid operation, the international community must address the underlying drivers of humanitarian needs. A lot can be done in this regard, even in the context of the ongoing conflict, including measures to tackle the country's deteriorating economy and its collapsing basic services. Over time, this will help reduce humanitarian needs – and with it, the size of the aid operation. Even more importantly, such actions would represent critical investments in Yemenis' self-sufficiency and create better and more stable conditions for people's well-being, development and dignity.

Objectives:

This year, the high-level pledging event will seek the support of the international community in four priority areas:

- 1. Raise awareness of the severe humanitarian crisis in Yemen and the ongoing aid operation:** Humanitarian needs in 2022 are expected to continue at a high level, with the most vulnerable communities – including women and girls – carrying the heaviest burden. In 2021, aid agencies reached more than 11 million people each month. This year, the humanitarian community will continue to do everything it can to reach those most vulnerable with the assistance they need, including working with all stakeholders to ensure principled aid delivery across the country.
- 2. Protect the gains made in 2021** by providing flexible, balanced, early and strong support for the humanitarian response, including through financing tools such as the Yemen Humanitarian Fund and the Central Emergency Response Fund. Substantial and urgent funding will prevent the risk of large-scale programme stoppages, including in critical areas such as food security, water and sanitation, protection, healthcare, nutrition, education and support to IDPs, migrants and refugees.
- 3. Rally support for measures to address the underlying drivers of humanitarian needs:** The collapse of Yemen's economy and basic services – which stem from the ongoing conflict – are the main drivers of humanitarian needs in Yemen. A new UN economic framework provides a roadmap of measures that the international community can undertake to immediately support the stabilisation of the economy, improve agricultural production and reduce food insecurity. Efforts to restore and preserve existing basic services – including healthcare, education, water networks, livelihoods, and social protection – are also needed to strengthen people's resilience, reduce humanitarian needs, and rely on humanitarian assistance.
- 4. Call for an end to the conflict:** While there are many significant and decisive measures that the international community can pursue in the context of the ongoing conflict, the humanitarian crisis will almost certainly continue on a large scale without an end to the fighting. Further efforts are needed to influence the parties to the conflict to agree to a nationwide ceasefire and return to the negotiating table.

Event

The Governments of Sweden and Switzerland, and the United Nations are convening a virtual High-Level Pledging Event for the Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen.

The event will take place on **Wednesday, 16 March 2021**, in a **hybrid format**. The working languages for this High-Level Event will be **Arabic** and **English**. Interpretation will be available in both languages.

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





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Co-hosts

- **H.E. Mr. Ignazio Cassis**, President of the Swiss Confederation, Switzerland
- **H.E. Ms. Ann Linde**, Minister for Foreign Affairs
- **H.E. Mr. António Guterres**, Secretary-General of the United Nations
- **Mr. Martin Griffiths**, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator

Participation

- The event will be convened from 14:30-17:30 Geneva time.
- All Member States and partners need to register here (<https://bit.ly/Yemen2022>) by **Thursday, 10 March 2022**.
- Member States are asked to participate at the ministerial level. The co-hosts will provide detailed guidance on connecting to the meeting upon registration.
- Member States and Partners are strongly encouraged to commit financial support to Yemen ahead of the event. Any contributions and pledges made as of **1 January 2022** or announced for 2022 will be counted towards the overall event announcement.

Agenda and format

The event will consist of three sessions:

- **Opening statements:** The co-hosts (Sweden, Switzerland 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 in the opening session.
- **Statements and announcements:** Participating delegates' support statements and announcements of support should be limited to three minutes maximum. The chairs will give the floor for Minister-level delegates followed by other participants.
- **Closing session:** Closing remarks will be made by Mr. Martin Griffiths, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, on behalf of the co-hosts.

Press Conference

An embargoed press event will take place on Tuesday, 15 March 2022, by Mr. Martin Griffiths, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator and representatives of the Governments of Sweden and Switzerland. A note to correspondents will be issued once the event on 16 March concludes.

Side Event

The Governments of Sweden and Switzerland will host a virtual high-level side event supporting Yemen's women and girls. Further details will be shared shortly.



Government Offices of Sweden
Ministry for Foreign Affairs



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
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United Nations