

High-level Pledging Event for the Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen
Wednesday, 16 March 2022.

Excellencies, honorable representatives,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

More than six years of war has pushed Yemen to the edge of famine, uprooted millions of people from their homes, destroyed the economy and fostered the spread of diseases.

With many cities severely destroyed, secondary and tertiary cities have become ports for “reverse” population movement as IDPs stream into them, seeking support.

Yemen has also become increasingly vulnerable to water scarcity / declining water resources due to a combination of climate change crisis impacts and demographic trends (population growth), leading to increasing pressure on water supply services and the sustainability of water dependent livelihoods, especially agriculture, which is leading to food security threats. Besides, there is lack of government capacities, especially at the Sub-National level and of key actors in the water sector, to identify and prioritize climate change adaptation actions and to attract funding for identified adaptation measures / sub-projects.

Although the humanitarian response in Yemen is responding broadly to the priority needs by the population, the protracted emergencies and their associated recurrent needs coupled with funding shortages have led the response to focus on immediate

human-made and natural disaster response without focusing enough on the need for mid to long-term sustainable shelter solutions necessary to improve the living situation of IDPs stranded in the displacement locations or facilitate return where feasible.

Inadequate WASH services and facilities across Yemen are a significant gap and a future risk in the delivery of healthcare services and at schools, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, where WASH Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) needs to be assured.

In Yemen, several research also suggest that housing, land and property (HLP) rights abuses, violations and discriminations are widespread, however, they are not sufficiently documented in most of the communities. Particularly, those for women and girls are critical as they are discriminated against or have limited access to land ownership even though major traditional Islamic legal system support women's rights to land.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen:

It is therefore critical that we continue to address the priority issues so that Yemenis can begin the path to re-building cities and towns to be safer, more inclusive, resilient and sustainable.

Through the generous support of our donors, UN-Habitat has clear intervention strategies with a focus to address these issues and mainly committed to provide safe and dignified living condition for Yemeni families by promoting security and resilience through

housing repair/rehabilitation; by ensuring and increasing access to WASH services to reduce the risks of cholera and other diseases; by supporting protection and equal access to HLP rights; and by focusing on capacity strengthening support to conduct a climate change vulnerability assessment required for sub-national authorities and key actors in the water sector to identify adaptation measures / sub-projects in the Tuban Delta.

We must all do more to deliver lifesaving and life-sustaining assistance, with the resources needed to do so. Together we continue to stand ready to help people live with dignity, protect infrastructure for basic needs, build back Yemeni cities and communities, and support a better quality of life for all people of Yemen.

Thank you all.