

HIGH-LEVEL PLEDGING EVENT FOR THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN YEMEN

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND - 26 FEBRUARY 2019

Panel discussion: The Challenges of Food Security and the Role of the Economy

26 February 2019, 13.30 – 15.15

Palais des Nations, Salle XVIII

Background and objectives

Yemen is the world's largest humanitarian crisis today. According to the latest Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) analysis over 20 million people in Yemen are severely food insecure—IPC Phase 3 or worse. Three million Yemenis are acutely malnourished, including close to two million children and more than one million lactating and pregnant women. Humanitarian actors today are doing their utmost to save lives of the Yemeni people devastated by the war.

Yemen has traditionally relied heavily on imports of food and fuel commodities. High transaction costs resulting from frequent constraints on key ports and logistics corridors have disrupted supplies and sharply raised consumer prices of essential commodities. Furthermore, on the demand side purchasing power has sharply declined due to rampant unemployment, sporadic or non-payment of salaries and substantial depreciation of the Yemeni riyal. Together these factors have contributed significantly to the ongoing humanitarian crisis and could push even more people toward extreme hunger.

In response, the World Food Programme is scaling up its food assistance from about 8 million people per month (November 2018) to 12 million people per month (January 2019)—a 50 percent increase in assistance covering almost 40 percent of the population. Successfully delivering on this scale will require humanitarian actors to have unfettered access across the country together with timely and flexible funding.

This panel will draw on expertise including from field to address several pertinent issues such as: measures to end the conflict; reaching populations most in need; sustaining operations with timely and flexible finding; and providing appropriate economic stimuli to sustain livelihoods of people who are still able to meet most of their needs.

Opening remarks

Mr. Peter Eriksson - Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation

Moderator

Mr. Manuel Bessler - Head of the Swiss Humanitarian Aid

Panelists

Ms. Lise Grande – Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Yemen

Ms. Valerie Guarnieri - Assistant Executive Director of the World Food Programme

Mr. Mohammed Al Jaber - Executive Director of the Yemen Comprehensive Humanitarian Operations Support Center

Ms. Winnie Byanyima - Executive Director of Oxfam International

Ms. Amal Nasser - Non-resident Economist with the Sana'a Center for Strategic Studies

