

YEMEN CONFERENCE 2021

HIGH-LEVEL PLEDGING EVENT FOR THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN YEMEN

High-level Side Event on “The Silent Emergency: What Can We Do to Improve Maternal and Child Nutrition in Yemen?”

VIRTUAL SIDE EVENT

1 MARCH 2021

07:15 - 08:30 NEW YORK

13:15 - 14:30 GENEVA

15:15 - 16:30 YEMEN

“Yemen is now in imminent danger of the worst famine the world has seen for decades. In the absence of immediate action, millions of lives may be lost. ... [We] risk a tragedy not just in the immediate loss of life but with consequences that will reverberate indefinitely into the future.”

- António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General (20 November 2020)

Hard-won gains against malnutrition in Yemen are being rolled back. The UN now estimates that two in five children under five are acutely malnourished, the highest rate recorded since the start of the conflict. Over a million pregnant or breastfeeding women are also in need of treatment for malnutrition. The consequences will be felt by Yemen for generations to come. The most urgent task in Yemen today is to prevent widespread famine on a scale we have not seen for forty years.

Acute malnutrition can be treated and prevented. Yet many aid projects including emergency food assistance are being disrupted by funding shortfalls. Malnutrition treatment programmes are also at risk if additional funds are not received soon. In addition, obstacles arising from the operating environment need to be addressed.

The Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs would like to invite you to a high-level side event on “The Silent Emergency: What can we do to Improve Maternal and Child Nutrition in Yemen?” in the context of the 2021 pledging event for the humanitarian crisis in Yemen.

This high-level side event is an opportunity to take stock of the results of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Acute Malnutrition Analysis (IPC AMN) recently conducted. Building on the new figures, this discussion aims to draw attention to the threat posed by unprecedented levels of malnutrition to an entire generation.

How can we address the spread of acute malnutrition among Yemeni children and mothers? How can we together step up efforts to ensure a sustainable response?

Opening remarks

H.E. Mr. Per Olsson Fridh, Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs

Panellists

Ms. Henrietta Fore, Executive Director, UNICEF

Mr. David Beasley, Executive Director, WFP

Mr. Robert Mardini, Director-General, ICRC

Dr. Sawsan Al Refaei, Board Member of Youth Leadership and Development Foundation in Yemen, Member of Yemeni Women’s Pact for Peace and Security

Ms. Inger Ashing, Chief Executive Officer, Save the Children International

Ms. Patricia Danzi, Director General, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

Moderator

Ms. Nima Elbagir, Senior International Correspondent, CNN

The event will be live streamed on Youtube at the following link: <https://youtu.be/gIMFRUIt9U4>. To submit a question to the panellists, please do so on Twitter using #SilentEmergency by Friday 26 February at 12:00 CET. A programme is enclosed separately. For inquiries contact Mr. Nabil Shiltagh (nabil.shiltagh@gov.se) and Mr. Patrik Olsson (Patrik.olsson@eda.admin.ch).

#SilentEmergency #YemenCantWait



Government Offices of Sweden
Ministry for Foreign Affairs



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