EMERGENCY RELIEF COORDINATOR'S KEY MESSAGES ON YEMEN
31 May 2012 • Issue Number 4

- For internal use only -

I. Key Messages

1. Yemen is facing a hunger crisis that has deteriorated drastically in recent months. Drought, conflict and soaring food prices have left millions of Yemenis unable to feed their families. Nearly a million children are suffering from acute malnutrition. Without immediate action, some three hundred thousand are at risk of dying and many more could suffer lifelong consequences.

2. This crisis is particularly severe for some half a million Yemenis who have been displaced by fighting, and 220,000 refugees, most of whom have fled violence and hunger in the Horn of Africa.

3. Saving lives is the most urgent priority, but it is vital that the international community tackles the underlying causes of the crisis: malnutrition and water shortages, economic stagnation and unemployment. These have afflicted Yemenis for decades and led to a cycle of poverty and violence.

4. The security situation in Yemen is of increasing concern, and some parts of the country are too dangerous for humanitarian workers to deliver aid, but the UN and partners are finding ways to get food, water and healthcare to people who are desperately in need. We can do much more if resources are increased.

5. Funding requirements for Yemen for 2012 are US$459 million and less than half this amount has been received. With millions of lives at stake, we cannot allow political and security considerations to overshadow the vast humanitarian needs in Yemen.

For more information contact:
Amanda Pitt, Spokesperson OCHA NY, pitta@un.org, Tel. +1 212 963 4129 (desk), +1 917-442-1810 (cell)
Clare Doyle, Deputy spokesperson, OCHA NY, doylecm@un.org, Tel. +212 963 5009 (desk), +1 646 288 6331 (cell)

www.unocha.org

The mission of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is to mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors.

Celebrating 20 years of coordinated humanitarian action