



Urging 'bold decisions' to end Yemen conflict, UN envoy says viable peace plan within reach

Amid attacks and counter-attacks in Yemen, those seeking a military solution will only prolong the suffering caused by the war, allow the terrorist threat to grow and deepen the challenges that will face the eventual recovery, the United Nations envoy for the war-riven country said..



with such attacks increasing in recent days, Mr. Ould Cheikh Ahmed said, adding that ground fighting and airstrikes had also escalated along the western coastline following the launch of operation 'Golden Spear' by the Yemeni Government and allied

The past several months have seen a "dangerous escalation" of military activities with tragic consequences for the Yemeni people, Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, the UN Special Envoy for Yemen, told the Security Council during a briefing alongside UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Stephen O'Brien.

Indeed, he explained, armed hostilities continued in many areas, including Sana'a governorate, Taiz city and in border areas between Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

"Civilians in Taiz continue to suffer from indiscriminate shelling in the city's residential areas,

forces.

Both sides to the conflict continue to claim significant military progress in the media, "but I remain convinced that there is no possibility of a military solution."

Describing "daily attacks and counter-attacks," he said the continued military activities are all the more tragic as a viable proposal for peace is on the table and within reach of both parties. "With political courage and will, the war can be stopped," he said, pressing both sides to demonstrate the political courage needed to stop the nearly two-year-long war.

Humanitarian Coordinator in Yemen, Jamie McGoldrick | statement on the situation in the Dhubab and Al Mokha areas

I am extremely concerned about the safety and well-being of civilians in the Dhubab and Al Mokha districts of Taizz Governorate. Information from the field indicates that military operations in the coastal region have forced most residents of Dhubab to flee the area, while in Mokha an estimated 20,000-30,000 people, almost one third of the population, are trapped in the town and require immediate protection and relief assistance. Repeated airstrikes, shelling and sniper attacks in and around the town of Al Mokha have killed and injured scores



of civilians and have ground most services to a halt, including the main market and the water supply system. Tens of thousands of civilians have been forced to flee their homes, some having to pass through mined roads to reach safety in neighboring areas. Many of the displaced families were already victims of the conflict, with lost livelihoods and previous displacement. Now they are in desperate need of protection.

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Yemen, UN discuss humanitarian situation in Sa'ada

The governor of Sa'ada Mohammed Jaber Awadh discussed on Monday with the director of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Yemen, "OCHA" George Khoury the humanitarian situation in Sa'ada province.

which infectious diseases spread as a result of the interruption of health services in all districts and because of constant bombardment of the prohibited weapons.

For his part, the Director of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, George Khoury, confirmed that his visit aims to closely see the humanitarian situation in the province.

At the meeting, the Governor said that aspects of service in the province, such as health, education, food and shelters are in an emergency and catastrophic situation and are in dire need for help.



OCHA

He emphasized that the work of the organizations are not enough comparing with destruction and the collapse of the humanitarian situation in Sa'ada in

Mr. George stressed that the United Nations agencies would launch a humanitarian response to Yemen's 2017 plan, calling on the international community to consider the humanitarian situation in Yemen.

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Humanitarian Coordinator in Yemen, Jamie Mcgoldrick

Humanitarian partners are mobilizing much needed water, food, shelter and medical assistance to those in need. However, the intense fighting is impeding safe access to the town of Al Mokha, with conflict and insecurity also restricting access to other neighboring districts in Taizz. A halt to the fighting is required to facilitate the delivery of assistance to Al Mokha and enable the free movement of civilians.

I am equally concerned over reports that roads and bridges connecting the port city of Al Hudaydah with other governorates have been damaged and destroyed by airstrikes in recent days. This infrastructure is vital for the movement of humanitarian and commercial supplies in the country. I deplore such actions as they risk further isolating Yemeni communities and aggravate the already alarming food security situation.

Under international humanitarian law, the parties to the conflict have an obligation to protect civilians, facilitate their safe passage and avoid damaging civilian infrastructure, including schools, hospitals and water stations that are critical to sustaining life.

Thus, I call on all parties to the conflict to meet their obligations under the international humanitarian law. I further call on all parties to urgently ensure humanitarian organizations have rapid, safe and unimpeded access to reach the people in need in the town of Al Mokha and the wider affected region.

I also continue to urge all the parties to return to the negotiation table. A sustained peace is the only solution that will help end the suffering in Yemen.

Enhancing Social Cohesion and Resilience through Insider Mediators in Al-Hodeidah

In partnership with Search for Common Ground and during the period 22 December 2016 - 9 January 2017, two conflict scans have been conducted in the districts of Zabeed and Bait Al-Faqeeh in Al-Hodeidah.

The objective of the conflict scans is to identify the main local-level conflict issues, and identify conflict drivers, impacts, conflict dynamics, potential solutions and resources for peace. The conflict scans are conducted by Insider Mediators (IMs) who used the conflict scan data collection tool to collect information from the conflict scans. Seventeen community meetings were held in Bait Al-Faqeeh while thirteen meetings were held in Zabeed. 591 community members, 25% were female, have attended the meetings.

Conflict scans have targeted areas that are heavily populated, areas characterized to have conflicts and areas relatively accessible and safe.

Insider Mediators have had an advanced training on dialogue design, mediation and conflict analysis. Moreover, direct support was given to

IMs during the implementation of the conflict scans whose findings would be compiled to develop a comprehensive Conflict Scan Report. Based on the analysis, insider mediators will convene a number of informal dialogue sessions at local level to assess drivers of conflicts, the level of community capacity available and the measures required to address causes of conflicts.

The conflict scans are part of the Enhanced Rural Resilience in Yemen Programme (ERRY), a three-year joint programme funded by the European Union and implemented by FAO, ILO, UNDP and WFP, to enhance the resilience and self-reliance of crisis-affected rural communities of Yemen.

The project aims to equip the communities with the necessary skills and tools to raise awareness of local sources of tension and conflict in rural areas, and empower local communities to establish sustainable system for both short- and long-term conflict management in the targeted areas.





Workshop on development of food security in Hodeida begins

A workshop financed by the European Union (EU) on the project to develop Information Systems on Food Security began on Monday in Hodeida province.

The workshop organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in collaboration with the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation aims to update the seasonal assessment for the environmental agricultural area Red Sea and Tihama scope



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

project.

He highly appreciated the role of the EU in financing the project and the role of the Organization (FAO) in implementing and providing technical support to the program to enhance food security and improve nutrition in the Yemen.

The Director of the Bureau of the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation Mohammed Abdulrahman stressed the importance of this

workshop to raise awareness of food security issues.

At the opening, the governor of Hodeida, Ahmed Hassan al-Hejj stressed that food security is a priority for the Yemeni government, stressing that there are many challenges to face food security.

He stressed the need to adopt future programs and projects to ensure the development of the agricultural sector. He expressed the will of the provincial leadership to ensure the success of the

Dr Abdul Wahid Mukred, Head of the Technical Secretariat for the Food Security Program, stressed the importance of the workshop in strengthening data mechanisms for food security and how to use them in the Capacity building of government institutions.

UN agency renews call for protecting children after deadly attacks in Yemeni capital

At least one girl has been killed and four others injured in attacks near a school outside the Yemeni capital, Sana'a, leading the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to renew its call on the people involved in the country's conflict to protect children and stop attacks on civilian structures.

“Schools should be zones of peace at all times, a sanctuary where children can learn, grow, play and be safe,” Meritxell Relaño, UNICEF Representative in Yemen, said in a statement. “Children should never risk their lives only to attend school.”



Since the escalation of the conflict in March 2015, the UN estimates that nearly 1,400 children have been killed and at least 2,140 injured with actual numbers likely to be “much higher”.

In addition to children casualties, nearly 2,000 schools in Yemen have been damaged or destroyed, or are being used for military purposes.

The attacks on 10 January in the Nihm district are the latest examples of “children witnessing death, war and destruction” instead of learning,

said Mrs. Relaño.



Yemen: EU-UN partnership to target ‘alarming’ food insecurity

With 14 million people in Yemen lacking reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food, the European Union (EU) has committed 12 million euros to assist the efforts of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to tackle rising hunger in the strife-torn Gulf of Aden country.

“This is one of the world’s worst humanitarian crises. People’s access to food is rapidly worsening and urgent action is needed,” said Salah Haja Hassan, FAO Representative in Yemen, in a news release.

“The EU’s contribution will greatly strengthen our ability to collect critical data on food security so that swift action can be taken to avert a further deterioration in the situation. It will also boost efforts to build the resilience of farmers and herders, especially women, by helping them to increase the value of their agricultural production,” he added.

According to the news release, agriculture plays a critical role in food security in Yemen, especially for those living in rural areas of the country, where insecurity and isolation mean food and other forms of humanitarian assistance are intermittent. Agricultural assistance can provide critical relief and is crucial for tackling the disturbingly high levels of malnutrition.

EU funds will provide immediate agricultural support to more than 150,000 people to help them rapidly improve food production and nutrition.

The project will support income-generating activities, such as backyard poultry rearing, dairy production, and beekeeping. Beneficiaries will also have opportunities to boost their incomes by learning how to improve their farming techniques, and about food processing, packaging and marketing.

In Yemen, some 14 million people, or more than half of the population, are not getting enough to eat and many could die; that’s the bleak assessment of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)..

Farming communities will also learn about proper and efficient irrigation systems to mitigate against the risks of water scarcity, drought and climate changes. The installation of solar pumps will ensure the provision of power to supply water for farming households suffering acute fuel shortages.

Support to the early warning system will include enhancing the collection, analysis and management of nutrition and food security data, and translating alerts into swift response to any emerging crisis.

In 2017, FAO requires \$48.4 million to make key emergency agricultural livelihoods interventions that will assist more than three million of the most vulnerable food and nutrition insecure people in the country under its Emergency Livelihoods Response Plan (ELRP).





UNICEF launches \$3.3 billion appeal to assist millions of children affected by conflict, disasters

Against the backdrop of ever increasing number of children driven from their homes due to conflict, disasters and climate change, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) today launched a \$3.3 billion appeal to provide emergency assistance in 48 countries around the globe.

“From Syria to Yemen and Iraq, from South Sudan to Nigeria, children are under direct attack, their homes, schools and communities in ruins, their hopes and futures hanging in the balance,” noted the UN agency in a news release

In total, almost one in four of the world's children lives in a country affected by conflict or disaster,” it added.

UNICEF's Humanitarian Action for Children sets out the agency's 2017 appeal and its goals to provide children with access to safe water, nutrition, education, health and protection in some of the world's worst conflicts and humanitarian emergencies.

The largest single component of the appeal (\$1.4 billion) is for children and families caught up in the conflict in Syria, which will soon enter its seventh year. This also includes Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries, such as Jordan where, according to estimates, almost half of all refugee families have a child who is a breadwinner.

With enough funding, UNICEF hopes to reach 81 million people, including 48 million children with access to safe water, nutrition, education, health and protection.





Minister of Expatriates and IOM officials discuss needs of Yemeni expatriates

Minister of Expatriates Affairs Mohammed Saeed discussed today with the regional director of the International Organization for Migration for the Middle East Kramila Judo and the representative of the International Organization for Migration in Yemen Laurent de Book the basic humanitarian needs to help expatriates and displaced Yemenis and refugees abroad.

At the meeting, the Minister called on for opening Sana'a International Airport and the opening of the Yemeni ports to help expatriates and stranded Yemenis abroad. He said that this meeting aims at transferring the sufferings of Yemeni expatriates and the stranded Yemen citizens abroad and how to find quick solutions to their problems, especially those expatriates who could not transfer money to or from Yemen.

For its part, the regional director of the IOM confirmed that IOM is continuing its cooperation with the Yemeni government for the return of Yemenis stranded abroad to return to their country, noting that the organization has appealed to donors to help in this regard.

Judo confirmed that IOM is working in collaboration with the international organizations and donors for opening Sana'a International Airport in order to facilitate the return of many stranded citizens abroad .

For his part, representative of IOM said that the priorities of the organization is to make plans and programs to involve Yemeni expatriates in the development process in Yemen, noting that the organization will discuss the living conditions of Yemeni expatriates abroad and providing them with legal advice.





Message from Secretary-General António Guterres

Colleagues, I am happy to share with you several decisions I have taken today, on my first working day in office as Secretary-General.



These decisions, primarily on aspects of our work that fall within my authority, aim to improve our effectiveness and efficiency through:

- 1) the establishment of an Executive Committee to support senior decision-making;
- 2) enhancements to our performance in the peace and security pillar;
- 3) strengthened arrangements for information management, coordination and crisis management;
- and 4) reconfiguration of my own office, placing more emphasis on strategic integration of our work across the pillars.

The decisions are taken in the spirit of collective effort that also imbues the UN Charter and recent Member State decisions on such issues as climate change, sustainable development and sustaining peace. Their fundamental purpose is to bring us closer together in recognition of our interconnectedness and in pursuit of our shared goals.

All of these measures are transitional and will be reviewed in due course in light of experience. Further development of certain aspects will need to be put to the legislative bodies for decision by Member States. These steps are the first in adapting the work of the Organization to a challenging world and to high expectations placed upon us. I look forward to working with you.

