



## U.N. special envoy warns against military operation on Yemen port

The United Nations does not advocate a military operation in and around Yemen's Hodeidah port where more than 70 percent of Yemen's food imports and humanitarian aid is delivered, the U.N. special envoy to Yemen said.

Yemen has been divided by two years of civil war that pits the Iran-allied Houthi group against a Western-backed Sunni Arab coalition led by Saudi Arabia that is carrying out air strikes. At least 10,000 people have been killed in the fighting.

The Red Sea port near the Bab al-Mandab strait is under the control of Yemen's armed Houthi movement. The Bab al-Mandab is a waterway through which nearly 4 million barrels of oil are shipped daily.



The United States is considering deepening its role in Yemen's conflict by more directly aiding the Saudi-led coalition and the proposed support could allow America to assist an eventual push on Hodeidah.

The envoy, Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, told a panel of the Middle East Institute

in Washington that he was "extremely concerned" about the possibility of military action at Hodeidah soon.

"We as the United Nations are advocating that no military operations should be undertaken in Hodeidah," he said.

The previous U.S. administration of Barack Obama was wary of operations involving the port and last year rejected a proposal to assist its Gulf allies in a push to take control of it. [Continued on page 2](#)

## Humanitarian Coordinator in Yemen, Jamie Mcgoldrick statement on the humanitarian situation in Yemen two years into the escalation of the conflict

Two years of relentless conflict in Yemen have devastated the lives of millions of people. An alarming 18.8 million of them- almost two thirds of the population- need some kind of humanitarian or protection support.

This man-made disaster has been brutal on civilians. Some seven million women, children, and men could be put at risk by famine in 2017.

Ordinary Yemenis are bearing the brunt of a conflict which is not theirs; caused by warring parties who are conducting themselves in a manner that totally disregards their responsibilities to do their utmost to protect civilians while they wage a war that is pushing Yemen further into despair. Over 50,000 civilians have been killed, injured or maimed.

Atrocities, including at least 1,540 children killed;



2,450 children injured; and over 1,550 children recruited to fight or to perform military related duties have been reported. Hundreds of people have been killed in mosques, markets, funeral wakes, schools and hospitals

Deliberate military tactics to shred the economy have moved an already weak and impoverished country towards social, economic, and institutional collapse. Half

of the population lack access to basic healthcare. Thousands have died from preventable diseases, which shockingly include one child every ten minutes. With malnutrition amongst children at an all-time high and at least two million children out of school, the conflict and its consequences is jeopardizing future generations in Yemen.

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## U.N. special envoy warns .....

Ahmed said that Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, the principal fighting forces in the coalition, have valid concerns about "the continued import of arms flowing through Hodeidah and illegal taxation of commercial imports by the Houthis." He warned that any military action in the area would "need to take into account the need to avoid any further deterioration in the humanitarian situation."

The World Food Programme said earlier this month that the governorates of Taiz and Hodeidah risked slipping into famine if they did not receive more aid. The International Rescue Committee has said any attack targeting the port would disrupt port facilities and "have a catastrophic impact on the people of Yemen." Yemen's internationally-backed government argues the Houthis' control of Hodeidah threatens international maritime navigation.

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## Humanitarian Coordinator in Yemen .....



More than eleven per cent of Yemen's entire population has been forced to move from their homes in search of safety and livelihoods. One million of these people have sought to return to their areas of origin only to find destruction and lack of opportunities to re-start their lives. Prolonged displacement and the lack of sustainable return options are putting people in greater jeopardy, as humanitarians struggle to meet their daily needs and host families deplete their resources. In the past few weeks alone, intensified fighting in Yemen's

Western Coast has forced more than 48,000 people to move.

A continuation of this conflict only increases the suffering across Yemen and makes matters worse..

Despite the lack of money and adequate humanitarian access, humanitarian partners have provided coordinated aid to millions of people across Yemen's 22 governorates during the past two years. Donors can now help us avert this humanitarian catastrophe, including famine, by funding the US\$2.1 billion requirement to help deliver life-saving food, nutrition, water, shelter and protection support to over 12 million people that are in desperate need of help..

Granting humanitarians safe and unhindered access to those in need and safe movement to those seeking assistance is also something I call on all warring parties to ensure..

The people of Yemen have suffered long enough and no humanitarian response can meet the increasing needs that the war is causing. Only peace can end the suffering and I continue to call on all the parties to return to the negotiating table and to make effective their responsibilities to civilians across Yemen. The time has come for the warring parties to place the very people they claim to be fighting for at the center of their concerns and end the fighting.



## UNDP Country Director Mr Auke Lootsma visits debris management projects in Aden and meet key decision makers

Funded by Government of Japan, UNDP, through Cash for Work in Yemen', is tackling such debris at key public institutions in several districts of Aden

The war in Yemen has generated a dire humanitarian situation with massive destruction to the country's public and private buildings. Debris has accumulated, sometimes with hazardous explosive remnants of war (ERWs) under the rubble and their accumulation is one among many obstacles in the delivery of humanitarian assistance or the resumption of services in the areas where the conflict has subsided. UNDP, thanks to funding from Government of Japan to the project 'Immediate Support to Solid Waste Management, Debris Removal, and to Women affected by War, through Cash for Work in Yemen', is tackling such debris at key public institutions in several districts of Aden. So far 13,608 m<sup>3</sup> of debris, roughly 6,500 truckloads, have been removed, sorted and safely disposed of. Employment created reached over 1,500 man-days for the labour intensive process of separating different categories of debris (concrete, steel, wood, etc.). The project aims to clear a total of 27,500 m<sup>3</sup> at several destroyed public institutions of Aden such as hospitals, schools, districts executive and technical offices, paving the way for scarce public land to be re-built upon and for services to resume.

During this first visit to Aden Mr Auke Lootsma, the new Country Director for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), underlined UNDP deep concerns for the long term impact of the conflict on public services. The destruction, loss of life and aftermaths such as debris accumulation and associated delays makes it very difficult to keep public services working and to preserve the conditions for their recovery.

The current crisis in Yemen is not only a humanitarian crisis, but also a development crisis. Public institutions and civil services crucial to help affected population to cope with the crisis have severely deteriorated and find it difficult to restart full operations.

Mr Adnan Al-Kaf, acting Governor of Aden stated: "We thank the Government of Japan and UNDP for this important debris management activity and donors in general for the help provided to Aden to recover and rebuild better. We will continue to work closely with the UN and the international community and facilitate their work in all possible ways"

Mr Lootsma encouraged "initiatives such as the ones in Crater are very positive as they not only make a difference at the level of the neighbourhood, in areas where it is possible, they partially take off the scars of the fighting and have a positive impact on the society at large". Mr Lootsma added that "if recovery is not attempted as early as possible and wherever it is possible, opportunities to preserve institutions and foster resilience will be squandered."

Mr Lootsma also visited key decision makers including the Prime Minister, Minister of Civil Service, Deputy Minister of Interior, the acting Governor of the Central Bank, Abyan Governor, the acting Governors of Aden and Lahaj, Yemen Mine Action Center in Aden and interacted with community leaders to prepare continuing UNDP support to all Governorates in Yemen.





## Japan provides timely food support as WFP steps up efforts to prevent famine in Yemen

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) welcomed today a contribution of some US\$13 million from the Government of Japan to support WFP providing desperately-needed food assistance to seven million people in Yemen.

This contribution comes at a time when two-thirds of people in Yemen do not have enough food and many areas are showing worrying signs of deteriorating food security.

WFP and other humanitarian partners are stepping up operations to prevent the onset of famine, which is feared largely as a result of two years of devastating conflict and decades of chronic food insecurity.

This contribution could not have come at a better time as WFP is doing its utmost to meet the urgent food needs of several million people each month,” said WFP Yemen Country Director Stephen Anderson. “Yemen is currently the world’s largest food insecurity emergency. WFP is extremely grateful to the people and the Government of Japan for this timely contribution that will substantially boost WFP efforts to get urgent food support to the people who need it most and help prevent the most vulnerable people in Yemen from slipping into famine.”

Preliminary results of a Yemen Emergency Food Security and Nutrition Assessment indicate that the number of food-insecure people has jumped by three million over the past seven months. Now an estimated 17 million people do not know where their next meal is coming from. Among these,

about seven million people are considered to be severely food insecure and require immediate, adequate and sustained emergency food assistance. People that are severely food insecure are the main focus of WFP efforts in Yemen.

In February 2017, WFP reached a record 4.9 million people in Yemen with emergency food assistance, despite a challenging operational environment and access constraints. However, due

to funding limitations, WFP is currently unable to provide a full, regular ration and is providing food that is about one-third of the recommended caloric requirements of 2,100 kilocalories per person per day. If urgent funds are not secured in time, WFP food stocks will run out next month.

Food security is one of the main pillars Japan focuses on in addressing the very worrying humanitarian situation in

Yemen,” said Katsuyoshi Hayashi, Ambassador of Japan to Yemen. “I hope our new funding, as part of international efforts to save Yemen from this miserable plight, will contribute to alleviating ordinary Yemeni people’s suffering.”

Japan is a long-standing partner of Yemen, and has invested substantially in the human security of the Yemeni people through the Japan International Cooperation Agency, the private sector, and UN organizations such as WFP. However, development gains from past years are now being rapidly eroded by conflict. Japan is among the top donors to WFP globally and to Yemen.





## Kidney patients struggle as Yemeni health crisis worsens

“I feel anxious every time I come here as I don’t know if I will be able to get my treatment,” says 37-year-old Salim Ali, a renal failure patient who for the last 17 years has come to Al Hudaydah Renal Dialysis Centre in Yemen for bi-weekly haemodialysis sessions.

Haemodialysis is a treatment for patients with severe kidney failure using a dialysis machine to clean the blood. In general, haemodialysis takes between 3 and 5 hours and is done 3 times a week.

In recent months, with internally displaced people flooding into Al-Hudaydah governorate, the number of patients receiving haemodialysis treatment in the centre has risen to over 600, despite the fact that the centre’s capacity is 400. Day and night dozens of patients are crowded in the corridors of the centre, waiting for their turn.

“We are working around the clock in 5 shifts to provide some 145 haemodialysis sessions per day but unexpected delays are inevitable as our machines are obsolete and frequently break down,” explains the Director of the Centre, Dr Maher Majam.

“Already 9 machines have broken down and it is getting more difficult to repair them as there are no spare parts for these old models. The schedule often has to be re-arranged, leading to delays of up to 3 days.”

These unpredictable delays are particularly difficult for those who travel from outside the city and who find it difficult to pay the transport and food costs required for frequent and prolonged stays in the city.

Doctors at the centre say they are admitting 60 new renal failure cases each month as 3 other smaller centres in the governorate are already operating at full capacity. Since the beginning of the conflict in March 2015, an estimated 140 000

internally displaced people have arrived in Al-Hudaydah, Yemen’s third largest governorate.

The centre receives haemodialysis consumables and medicines from the capital, Sana’a, but with an increased number of patients the supplies received to cover 2017 are already running low. In addition, the central electrical plant providing electricity for health facilities in the city is facing generating difficulties. “We have been told that electricity may be cut any day and we don’t have enough fuel to run generators,” says Dr Majam.

### Dialysis centres at risk of closure

The centre in Al-Hudaydah governorate is one of 28 dialysis centres in Yemen struggling to continue functioning. Last November, the Dialysis Centre in Ibb governorate stopped functioning due to lack of supplies and operational costs, leaving more than 500 patients without care.

“As is the case with other health facilities, dialysis centres in Yemen are suffering the consequences of the ongoing conflict,” said Dr Nevio Zagaria, WHO Acting Representative in Yemen. “Increased funding is needed to support health system as a whole, including dialysis centres,” says Dr Zagaria.

Across Yemen, the budget allocated to health authorities has been drastically reduced, leaving health facilities without funds for operational costs and health care workers without regular salaries since September 2016.

WHO has provided some of the dialysis centres with equipment, IV fluids and fuel to operate generators. However, more support is needed to avoid possible closure of these centres and to protect patients. WHO’s Health Resources Availability Mapping System (HeRAMS) found that services for noncommunicable diseases, including kidney failure, are only fully available in 21% of the country’s health facilities.





## Displaced Yemenis face dire conditions after latest violence.

Newly displaced people from Mokha in Yemen's governorate of Taizz receive UNHCR assistance in Bayt al Faqih, in neighbouring Hudaydah governorate. BAYT AL FAQIH, Yemen – As the battle for control of the Red Sea port of Mokha on Yemen's west coast raged around them last month, Amina\* and her family knew the time had finally come for them to flee for their lives.

"We faced danger from both the sky and the land. We hid at home for most of the time, but when we were nearly killed and our house damaged by the fighting, we just had to leave," the 28-year-old mother of three said. Together with two neighbouring families, Amina, her husband and their children crammed themselves into a vehicle that would take them to safety, splitting the US\$180 cost between them. A journey that would normally take two hours lasted four times as long as they had to stick to back roads to avoid the fighting.

"We couldn't take anything with us – no food, clothes or any belongings because there was hardly any space for the people. So we left with nothing," Amina explained.

They made their way some 150 kilometres north to the town of Bayt al Faqih in the neighbouring Hudaydah governorate, where Amina and her family have been staying in an apartment provided by the local community for the past several weeks.

"We couldn't take anything with us – no food, clothes or any belongings."

"When we arrived in Hudaydah we had nothing, but the community have been so generous. Even though they are also suffering, they gave us a place to stay and helped us out," Amina said. But despite the help of locals and relief items including mattresses, blankets, sleeping mats, buckets and kitchen sets from UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, the family's situation remains precarious.

"Life is too hard. We don't have enough food and water and we are sick. Many people and their children have infections, and fear has made our bodies and minds weak," Amina said. "I want to go back home, but all the information I have is that home is still not safe. I just want peace for my Yemen."



Intensified hostilities across western and central Yemen have forced more than 62,000 people from their homes within the last six weeks, including 48,400 from the west coast governorate of Taizz, where Mokha is located, UNHCR spokesman William Spindler told a news briefing in Geneva on Friday (March 10).

"Most of the displaced are in dire need of assistance and have found shelter in communal and public spaces, including schools and health facilities, whilst others are living in unfinished buildings or out in the open," Spindler told reporters.

"Most of the displaced are in dire need of assistance and have found shelter in communal and public spaces."

A number of those displaced, including many children, have been reported as suffering from malnutrition, Spindler said. Overcrowding and unsanitary conditions in areas of displacement are also leading to outbreaks of diseases.

UNHCR and its partners have responded swiftly to the needs of those displaced from Taizz to Hudaydah and others across the country, providing shelter and emergency relief items which many recipients reported as being the only humanitarian assistance they have so far received.

However, fighting is currently hampering access to more than 35,000 people displaced within Taizz governorate itself, and UNHCR is calling for the resumption of humanitarian access to the area while trying to mobilize a response with all national actors on the ground.



## Statement attributable to UNFPA Director for the Arab States Regional Office, Dr Luay Shabaneh, on the humanitarian crisis in Yemen

The alarming level of food scarcity in Yemen is putting the lives of **352,000** pregnant women at risk, and could harm the health of **2.2 million** women of childbearing age, who are in urgent need of assistance and protection.

In a country with one of the highest maternal death rates in the Arab region, lack of food, poor nutrition and eroding healthcare could mean an increase in premature or low-birth weight babies and severe postpartum bleeding, making the process of giving birth more life threatening.

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund is extremely concerned about the health and protection of

women and girls in Yemen, especially those who are pregnant as access to food and basic services remains beyond reach for many.

UNFPA is scaling up its efforts, and appealing for \$22.1 million under the 2017 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan to meet the urgent sexual and reproductive health needs and respond to gender-based violence.

We remain committed to supporting the Yemeni people and working to prevent this unfolding humanitarian catastrophe.

*(Maternal mortality rate for Yemen: 148 per 100,000 live births, 2013 Demographic Health Survey)*



## National polio immunization campaign reaches five million children in Yemen as conflict intensifies

Amid escalating violence, UNICEF and partners have completed the first round of a nationwide door-to-door vaccination campaign reaching 5 million children under the age of five with oral polio vaccine and vitamin A supplementation.

In the first campaign of its kind this year, 40,000 vaccinators spread across Yemen to provide children with polio vaccine and vitamin A supplements. Mobile health teams have reached children wherever they are, including in places where access to health services has been cut off by the fighting. Health workers have shown heroic resolve in crossing frontlines, mountains and valleys to vaccinate children.

“In the last two years, more children have died from preventable diseases than those killed in the violence. This is why vaccination campaigns are so crucial to save the lives of Yemen’s children and to secure their future,” said Dr Meritxell Relaño, UNICEF Representative in Yemen.

The campaign comes at a critical time. Children in Yemen are living on the brink of famine and widespread malnutrition has drastically increased their risk of disease. More than half of Yemen’s medical facilities are no longer functional and the health system is on the verge of collapse.

As needs increase, UNICEF is scaling up its humanitarian response, including:

Supporting the treatment of 323,000 children against severe acute malnutrition,  
Providing basic healthcare services to one million children and over half a million pregnant and breastfeeding mothers.

“Children are dying because the conflict is preventing them from getting the health care and nutrition they urgently need. Their immune systems are weak from months of hunger,” said Dr Relaño. “We call on all parties to the conflict to find a political solution to this crisis that has inflicted untold suffering on children.”





The Secretary-General

## Written message on International Women's Day

Women's rights are human rights.

But in these troubled times, as our world becomes more unpredictable and chaotic, the rights of women and girls are being reduced, restricted and reversed.

Empowering women and girls is the only way to protect their rights and make sure they can realize their full potential.

Historic imbalances in power relations between men and women, exacerbated by growing inequalities within and between societies and countries, are leading to greater discrimination against women and girls. Around the world, tradition, cultural values and religion are being misused to curtail women's rights, to entrench sexism and defend misogynistic practices.

Women's legal rights, which have never been equal to men's on any continent, are being eroded further. Women's rights over their own bodies are questioned and undermined. Women are routinely targeted for intimidation and harassment in cyberspace and in real life. In the worst cases, extremists and terrorists build their ideologies around the subjugation of women and girls and single them out for sexual and gender-based violence, forced marriage and virtual enslavement. Despite some improvements, leadership positions across the board are still held by men, and the economic gender gap is widening, thanks to outdated attitudes and entrenched male chauvinism. We must change this, by empowering women at all levels, enabling their voices to be heard and giving them control over their own lives and over the future of our world.

Denying the rights of women and girls is not only wrong in itself; it has a serious social and

economic impact that holds us all back. Gender equality has a transformative effect that is essential to fully functioning communities, societies and economies.

Women's access to education and health services has benefits for their families and communities that extend to future generations.

An extra year in school can add up to 25 per cent to a girl's future income.

When women participate fully in the labour force, it creates opportunities and generates growth. Closing the gender gap in employment could add \$12 trillion to global GDP by 2025. Increasing the proportion of women in public

institutions makes them more representative, increases innovation, improves decision-making and benefits whole societies.

Gender equality is central to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the global plan agreed by leaders of all countries to meet the challenges we face. Sustainable Development Goal 5 calls specifically for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and this is central to the achievement of all the 17 SDGs.

I am committed to increasing women's participation in our peace and security work.

Women negotiators increase the chances of sustainable peace, and women peacekeepers decrease the chances of sexual exploitation and abuse.

Within the UN, I am establishing a clear road map with benchmarks to achieve gender parity across the system, so that our Organization truly represents the people we serve. Previous targets have not been met. Now we must move from ambition to action.



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