UN chief calls for end to all armed clashes, airstrikes in Yemen

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has called on the parties to the conflict in Yemen to cease all air and ground assaults, expressing deep concern about the “sharp escalation” of armed clashes and airstrikes in the capital, Sana’a, and other parts of the war-torn country over the past several days. A statement issued by Mr. Guterres’ Spokesman Sunday evening said the fighting has already resulted in dozens of deaths and hundreds of injuries, including civilians, and is also restricting the movement of people and life-saving services within Sana’a city. “Ambulances and medical teams cannot access the injured and people cannot go outside to buy food and other necessities. Aid workers are unable to travel and implement critical life-saving programmes at a time when millions of Yemenis rely on assistance to survive,” said the statement.

Statement by the Humanitarian Coordinator for Yemen, Jamie McGoldrick, REQUESTING A HUMANITARIAN PAUSE

I am extremely concerned at the continued violence in Sana’a city where armed clashes and airstrikes have continued unabated for the past days. Dozens of deaths and hundreds of injuries have been reported including civilians. The streets of Sana’a city have become battlegrounds and people are trapped in their homes, unable to move out in search of safety and medical care and to access basic supplies such as food, fuel and safe water. Ambulances and medical teams cannot reach the injured due to ongoing clashes, with reports of some coming under attack. Aid workers remain in Humanitarian organisations are receiving desperate calls for help by families trapped in neighborhoods engulfed by fighting. They desperately want to safely leave their homes.

UN envoy urges support for efforts to resume political process in Yemen

The United Nations envoy for Yemen on Wednesday called for halting violence and supporting efforts to bring warring parties together for the resumption of the political process. Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, the Special Envoy of the Secretary General for Yemen, “is deeply concerned about the escalation of violence in Yemen and the continuous violations putting the life of civilians at risk,” said a statement issued by his office.
UN chief calls for end to all armed ….

This latest outbreak of violence could not come at a worse time for the Yemeni people, who are already caught up in the world's largest humanitarian crisis. The conflict and blockade that was put in place on 6 November – and is still not fully lifted – have caused significant shortages of critical supplies, especially food and fuel, and resulted in price hikes, curtailing access to food, safe water and healthcare.

“The Secretary-General calls for the urgent resumption of all commercial imports, without which millions of children, women and men risk mass hunger, disease and death,” the statement underscored.

The UN chief went on to call on all parties to the conflict to abide by their obligations under international humanitarian law, with the statement emphasizing: “It is paramount that civilians are protected, that the wounded are afforded safe access to medical care, and that all sides facilitate life-saving humanitarian access.”

More than two years of relentless conflict between the Government and Houthi and allied rebels in Yemen, already the Arab world's poorest country, has devastated the lives of millions of people. An alarming 20.7 million people in Yemen need some kind of humanitarian or protection support, with some 9.8 million in acute need of assistance. This man-made disaster has been brutal on civilians.

“The Secretary-General reiterates that there is no military solution to the Yemen conflict. He urges all parties to the conflict to engage meaningfully with the United Nations to revitalize inclusive negotiations on a political settlement,” the statement concluded.

Statement by the Humanitarian Coordinator ….

Thus, I call on all parties to the conflict to urgently enable a humanitarian pause on Tuesday 5 December, between 10.00 am and 16.00 pm to allow civilians to leave their homes and seek assistance and protection and to facilitate the movement of aid workers to ensure the continuity of life-saving programmes. The wounded must be afforded safe access to medical care.

I remind all parties to the conflict that deliberate attacks against civilians, including humanitarian and health care personnel, and against civilian and medical infrastructure, are clear violations of international humanitarian law and may constitute war crimes.

I ask Member States who have leverage on the parties to the conflict in Yemen to step up their engagement for the sake of the protection of the civilian population.

UN envoy urges support for efforts to ….

Since 2015, the southern Arabian nation has been in a conflict between forces loyal to President Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi and those allied to the Houthi rebel movement.

The envoy reiterated that there is no military solution to the crisis, and the only solution is a Yemeni-owned political process “without any foreign intervention,” the statement said.

Mr. Ould Cheikh Ahmed condemned targeting the Saudi capital of Riyadh on 19 December with a ballistic missile, saying that “this is an escalation that hinders peace efforts in Yemen.”

The envoy called for restraint and urged parties to refrain from any acts of violence that would aggravate the already difficult humanitarian and security situation in the country.

The envoy welcomed the decision of the Arab Alliance to open the port of Hodeidah for humanitarian and relief access and allow commercial ships to enter for 30 days, also calling for the continuation of these measures thereafter.

The envoy reiterated his earnest intention to redouble his efforts urgently to get in contact with all parties to prepare the resumption of a comprehensive and credible political process.
Mukalla, a seaport and the capital city of Yemen's Hadramout Governorate, is located in the Southeast coast of Yemen and on the shores of the Arabian Sea. For decades, fishing has been the main career for many of the Mukalla residents.

**Highlights**

- USAID contribute with amount of US$ 15,200,000 under Yemen Emergency Crisis Response Project (YECRP).
- US$ 3,653,355 has been disbursed as of September 2017.
- YECRP has provided fish detectors to 200 local fishermen in Mukalla and Alshehr districts of Hadramout Governorate.

However, fishermen often face difficulties during their work, mainly in identifying the locations of schools of fish.

Ahmed Basharif, a 30-year-old fisherman from Mukalla, depends on fishing as a main source of income. He, however, spends long hours in the sea because he uses primitive and conventional fishing techniques.

"I only spend a little time with my family because I spend long hours in the sea trying to identify locations of fish. Many fishermen just set out to roam broad expanses of sea to catch fish," he added.

However, this has recently changed when Ahmed received support from the Small and Micro Enterprise Promotion Service (SMEPS) through a business resilience project funded by USAID and implemented by UNDP in partnership with Social Fund for Development (SFD) to use modern fishing techniques.

"Today I received a fish finding detector and operated it during my work. I was able to catch fish in just a few hours. This is amazing. I would like to thank all team members for their support," said Ahmed.

The fish finding detector device uses ultrasound waves to enable fishermen to detect the locations of schools of fish. The approximate depth of the fish is calculated based on the time taken by the ultrasound waves to return to the sensor. So far, YECRP has provided fish detectors to 200 local fishermen in Mukalla and Alshehr districts of Hadramout Governorate.

Mohammed Abdulaziz Bahaidarah, SMEPS Project Officer, says that the project aims to make this new technology available to all fishers and provide them with hands-on training to increase their fish production and reduce the amount of fuel used by artisan fishermen in navigating their boats.

"This assistance is provided to fishermen in Hadramout through various support and training programs in accordance with the Fish Support Project Regulation, which covers many areas of work in the fisheries sector. The support includes the provision of modern equipment used in the fishing industry," he added.

UNDP partners with the Social Fund for Development (SFD) and Public Works Project (PWP) to implement the USAID-funded Yemen Emergency Crisis Response Project (YECRP) designed to work on Improving delivery of basic services through enhancing access to clean drinking water and sanitation, providing livelihoods opportunities to women and youth in education, enhancing the capacity of community mid-wives and paramedics to provide quality health services, and expanding the production of local fishermen, coffee and crop farmers.
UNICEF airlifts nearly 6 million doses of vaccines for children in Yemen amid intensifying violence and import restrictions

A UNICEF-chartered plane landed today in Sana’a and delivered nearly 6 million doses of essential vaccines to protect millions of children at risk of preventable diseases, including the current diphtheria outbreak that has reportedly infected over 300 people and killed 35. Most diphtheria cases and deaths are among children.

Nearly 1,000 days since the conflict escalated in Yemen, the country is in the grips of the world’s worst humanitarian crisis, with restrictions on fuel and food imports further complicating emergency response. The restrictions add to the misery of children in Yemen who already face the triple threat of diseases, malnutrition and violence.

“Vaccinating children in Yemen now is critical to protect them from preventable diseases and death. It is vital that vaccines and other lifesaving supplies for children continue to flow into Yemen and across the country unimpeded. They are a lifeline for millions of children”, said Meritxell Relaño, UNICEF Representative in Yemen.

UNICEF reiterates its call on all parties to allow unhindered humanitarian access to all of Yemen’s land, sea and air ports and to facilitate the distribution of lifesaving assistance for children inside the country.
WHO delivers medicines as diphtheria spreads in Yemen

WHO has delivered medicines to tackle an outbreak of diphtheria in Yemen, warning that sustained humanitarian access is critical to stopping its spread. The shipment of 1,000 vials of lifesaving anti-toxins and 17 tonnes of medical supplies arrived in Sanaa on Monday (November 27) after being stalled by the three-week closure of sea and air ports.

"It is shocking that in 2017, there are children dying of an ancient disease that is vaccine-preventable and can be easily treated," said Dr Nevio Zagaria, WHO Country Representative in Yemen.

The anti-toxins can help stop the spread of the bacterium to vital organs in patients already infected with diphtheria. But no supplies were available in Yemen before the arrival of the WHO shipment on Monday.

Antibiotics and vaccines are also critical to treating and preventing the highly infectious respiratory disease – both of which are in short supply in Yemen.

"In recent days, children and adults have died while the medicines needed to save their lives were available only a few hours away. We need unconditional and sustained access to all areas of Yemen to stop these unconscionable deaths from malnutrition, cholera, and now diphtheria," Zagaria added.

Diphtheria is making an alarming comeback in the war-torn country, with 189 clinically diagnosed cases and 20 deaths – mostly children and young adults – in the last three months.

Most diphtheria cases and deaths have been reported in Ibb governorate but the outbreak is spreading fast, already affecting 13 governorates. The closest points of entry to Ibb are in Sana’a and Hodeida, making it crucial that Sana’a airport and the port of Hodeida remain open.

Despite the conflict and recent closures, WHO, UNICEF, and partners have continued to work with available supplies, vaccinating 8,500 children under five years in al-Sadah and Yarim districts in Ibb governorate during November. A vaccination campaign targeting 300,000 children younger than 12 months began on Saturday (November 25). Further vaccination rounds for more than 3 million children and young adults in priority districts are due in Dece.
UN Migration Agency Responds to Displacement Caused by Fighting in Yemen’s Capital

Renewed clashes between rival forces at the end of last month have affected several parts of Yemen’s capital, Sana’a. In addition to the 234 casualties it caused, the brutal fighting triggered large-scale displacement to neighboring governorates. In response to this sudden displacement, IOM, the UN Migration Agency immediately began providing humanitarian assistance to displaced people and people affected by the conflict using prepositioned stocks of relief including shelter building materials, mattresses, blankets, winter clothes and personal hygiene items.

So far, nearly 25,480 people have been reached with this support in Taizz, Ibb, Hajja and Amran Governorates – all areas where people have fled to from Sana’a. IOM is in the process of bringing more humanitarian relief to the Sa’ada and Sana’a Governorates to improve living conditions of approximately 28,000 vulnerable displaced people sheltering in those locations.

“It is very sad that due to clashes, we have to limit our assistance,” said Hazim Torlic, IOM Yemen Officer in Charge. “Even though this is when it is needed most.”

Since the start of the conflict in March 2015, IOM has reached 219,804 displaced people in 14 of Yemen’s 21 Governorates with similar humanitarian relief. In addition, IOM provides direct health assistance to approximately 12,000 vulnerable displaced people each month. This is achieved through the deployment of nine mobile health clinics and the provision of direct health support to 19 health facilities serving displaced communities across nine governorates.

This emergency response was made possible through the contributions from the Humanitarian Pooled Fund (HPF) and the Government of Germany. IOM is seeking additional funding to expand its operations to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable affected populations in Yemen.

WHO delivers 70 tons of life-saving medicines and supplies to Sana’a, Yemen

A World Health Organization-chartered aircraft carrying more than 70 tons of essential medicines and surgical supplies landed in Sana’a Airport today, the largest planeload delivered by WHO to Yemen this year.

The shipment contains trauma kits sufficient to meet the needs of 2000 patients requiring surgical care, as well as various types of rapid diagnostic tests and laboratory reagents to cover the urgent needs of central laboratories and blood banks.

“Together with our partners, we have made tremendous efforts to prevent the collapse of Yemen’s health system, but millions of people remain in dire need of critical health services,” said Dr Nevio Zagaria, WHO Representative to Yemen.

Despite restrictions, including the recent blockade, WHO continues to fill critical gaps in hospitals and health facilities across the country. Earlier this week, two other planes delivered 26 tons of emergency inter-agency health kits. This year, WHO has provided nearly 1500 metric tons of essential medicines and medical supplies to 96 health facilities that are struggling to keep their doors open.

As the fighting intensifies and the need for trauma care increases, stocks of life-saving supplies to treat the injured are running dangerously low. Laboratories are also struggling to procure the reagents and rapid tests that are crucial to accurately diagnosing emerging infectious diseases. More than 30,000 Yemeni health workers have not received their salaries in over a year, and yet they continue to save lives every day.

According to the 2018 Humanitarian Needs Overview, 16.4 million people in 215 districts across Yemen lack adequate access to health care – 9.3 million of whom are in acute need. This presents a drastic increase of 79.3% since late 2014.
New US$ 150 Million Project to focus on Yemen's conflict affected cities

The World Bank announced today a new project aimed at restoring basic services in some of the Yemen’s cities hardest hit by the ongoing conflict. Funded by a US$150 million grant from IDA, the World Bank’s fund for the world’s poorest countries, the new project will target issues like uncollected trash and untreated sewage water, both of which are contributing directly to the current cholera epidemic. In addition, the project will address the urgent needs for road repair to improve mobility, and access to electricity for critical services.

The Yemen Integrated Urban Services Emergency Project will include 19 cities from across the country: Aden, Al-Dhale’e, Al-Hodeida, Al-Mukalla, Amran, Bajil, Bayhan, Bayt Al-Faqih, Dhamar, Ibb, Lahj, Rida, Saadaah, Sana’a, Say’oun, Shihr, Taiz, Yarray, and Zinjibar. The project aims to support 1.4 million Yemeni, around half of them women. The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) will implement the project in partnership with three long-standing Yemeni entities that have continued working despite the conflict: The Public Works Project, the Road Maintenance Fund, and the Urban Water Project Management Unit. The partnership with these entities will help preserve and strengthen local service delivery capacities.

“Through our ongoing needs assessments, we have seen the extent of the impact of the conflict on Yemen’s cities, and the consequences for millions of Yemenis living there,” said Dr. Asad Alam, World Bank Group Country Director for Yemen, Egypt, and Djibouti. “As a range of services and infrastructure have been affected, this project is designed to restore services simultaneously across several sectors to provide coherent support to the affected population. Our aim is to help Yemenis, and their local institutions, to cope with the conflict and preserve hope for a better tomorrow.”

Working across sectors, the project aims to provide 600,000 Yemenis with access to rehabilitated water and sanitation services, rehabilitate 400 kilometers of urban roads, restore 60,000 megawatt hours of energy generation, and create 1.5 million days of skilled and non-skilled employment. Decisions on the most pressing needs to be addressed by the project will be made at the community level. Citizens, especially women, will have voice in identifying priority subprojects. In addition, the project would promote transparency by publicly sharing all critical information on project progress.

“The project will not only help restore critical urban services,” said Tahir Akbar, World Bank Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist and Task Team Leader of the project, “but also strengthen local businesses and generate economic opportunities, as most of the project activities will be implemented through local contractors and suppliers.”

With this new financing, IDA emergency grants to Yemen issued since July 2016 have totaled US$1.133 billion. These projects have been prepared - and are being implemented - in partnership with Yemeni institutions and UN organizations such as the United Nations Development Program, the United Nations Children’s Fund, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, and the United Nations Office for Project Services.
UN Secretary-General's Message on Human Rights Day

Our world This year’s commemoration of Human Rights Day marks the beginning of a year-long celebration of seven decades since the adoption of one of the world’s most profound and far-reaching international agreements. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights establishes the equality and dignity of every human being and stipulates that every government has a core duty to enable all people to enjoy all their inalienable rights and freedoms.

All of us have a right to speak freely and participate in decisions that affect our lives. We all have a right to live free from all forms of discrimination. We have a right to education, health care, economic opportunities and a decent standard of living. We have rights to privacy and justice. These rights are relevant to all of us, every day. They are the foundation of peaceful societies and sustainable development.