**We are not close’ to urgently needed peace deal in Yemen, UN envoy tells Security Council**

The United Nations envoy for Yemen stressed on urgent need for a peace agreement by the warring sides in the country, but confessed that “we are not close” to such an accord due to the failure of the key parties to compromise. “The reluctance of the key parties to embrace the concessions needed for peace, or even discuss them, remains extremely troubling,” said Ismael Ould Cheikh Ahmed, the Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for Yemen, at a Security Council briefing on the situation in the country. “Yemenis are paying a price for their needless delay.” The envoy updated the Council on his recent efforts to broker an agreement that would avert a possible attack by the pro-Government forces on the critical port city of Hodeidah, controlled by the rebel Houthis.

**Continued on page 2**

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE HUMANITARIAN COORDINATOR, JAMIE MCGOLDRICK ON THE NEED TO ENSURE FUNDING AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS INTO AND THROUGHOUT YEMEN**

Humanitarian funding is urgently needed to save lives across Yemen. With urgency, I call on Members States to fund the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan. All commitments made during the pledging conference in Geneva need to materialize at once. While Yemen awaits for peace, humanitarian action is saving lives every day across the entire country. All ports and roads must be available to humanitarians to properly address the current threat of famine and the resurging cholera outbreak and to facilitate the timely delivery of life-saving assistance to vulnerable people throughout Yemen. Giving the United Nations and humanitarian partners safe and unimpeded access to those in need would be a strong demonstration by the warring parties of their concern for the Yemeni people. It is imperative that humanitarians reach people in need without obstacle, wherever they may be. I am particularly concerned about reports that medicine and medical supplies are not reaching people in need in a timely manner due to administrative delays at ports, checkpoint read hurdles, and aid delivery interference. Recent information suggests that medicine supplies are being delayed from reaching Taizz City, where the need of the people is urgent. I call on the authorities in Sana’a to allow trucks carrying medicines into Taizz City without delay

I echo the call of the United Nations Secretary General at the pledging conference to all warring parties for safe, unconditional, and sustained access by humanitarians to people in need across the country. I continue to request parties to the conflict and those influencing and arming the parties, to return to peace negotiations and to bring this conflict to an end.
We are not close’ to urgently needed peace deal in Yemen…..

Mr. Ould Cheikh Ahmed warned that the spread of fighting to the city would lead to a devastating loss of civilian life and infrastructure, and threaten the flow of food and medical supplies through the port and bring further suffering to the Yemeni people.

“So far, we managed to avert military action in Al-Hodeidah,” he said, but expressed regret that the Ansarallah – General People’s Congress delegation in the capital, Sana’a, did not meet him to discuss the framework for such an agreement.

Civil society’s calls for peace “falling on deaf ears”

“I very much regret to inform this Council that the call for peace from Yemeni women and civil society and the international community is still falling on deaf ears,” he said.

He said he has proposed an agreement which avoid military clashes in Hodeida that should be negotiated in parallel with an agreement to ensure the resumption of salary payments nationally to all civil servants.

An agreement on Hodeida and salaries should be just a first step towards a national cessation of hostilities and renewed discussion of a comprehensive agreement. Yet even serious negotiations of these first steps have been slow to start,” he said.

The envoy said that pro-Government forces are attempting to make progress on the western coastline of Taiz governorate – from Al-Dhubab and Al-Mokha towards Al-Hodeidah port and inland towards Taiz city.

An assessment mission carried out by humanitarian agencies in early April found that Al-Dhubab was largely empty due to widespread destruction of infrastructure and contamination by unexploded ordnance and landmines. In Al-Mokha, an estimated 40 per cent of houses and infrastructure have been damaged by the fighting.

Violence has also continued in Hajjah governorate and the border area between Yemen and Saudi Arabia. The persistent military action is leading to an increased militarization of the Yemeni population, extensive proliferation of weapons, and widespread use of deadly landmines, the envoy warned. On the humanitarian front, he said seven million Yemenis are at risk of famine, and half of Yemen’s population lacks access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene services. The latest outbreak of cholera has led to more than 500 deaths and over 60,000 suspected cases in 19 governorates.

Less than 45 per cent of medical facilities are functioning and medicines for diabetes, hypertension, cancer and other chronic diseases are in short supply.

“I urge the Council to strongly convey to the parties that they need to engage immediately with the United Nations to agree on steps to avoid further bloodshed, to halt the slide towards famine and to re-commit to a peaceful end to the war,” he said.

Situation in Yemen a result of international community’s inaction

Also speaking at the Council meeting today was Emergency Relief Coordinator and Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Stephen O’Brien, who said that the people of Yemen are being subjected to deprivation, disease and death as the world watches.
Situation in Yemen a result of international community’s in action

Also speaking at the Council meeting was Emergency Relief Coordinator and Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Stephen O’Brien, who said that the people of Yemen are being subjected to deprivation, disease and death as the world watches.

He stressed that “this is not an unforeseen or coincidental result of forces beyond our control” but rather it is a direct consequence of actions of the parties and supporters of the conflict and “sadly, a result of inaction – whether due to inability or indifference – by the international community.”

In just the last month, twice as many people were suffering from suspected cholera cases compared to those in the last six months combined. According to estimates, 150,000 cases are projected for the next six months, in addition to the broadly 60,000 current suspected cases since late April, with 500 associated deaths.

The UN and partners urgently scaled up assistance, quadrupling the number of diarrhoea treatment centres in the last month and established 136 oral rehydration corners, he said, also noting that synchronised efforts in water, sanitation and health are in place to ensure a comprehensive and holistic response, including a nationwide awareness campaign.

On Hudaydah Port, Mr. O’Brien said it is a lifeline for Yemen, being the primary point of entry for commercial and humanitarian imports into the country, which historically is 80 to 90 per cent dependent on imported food staples.

“It is also the only port in Yemen that can handle fuel, and bulk and containerized cargo at scale,” he said, appealing to Member States to ensure that all efforts are made to keep the port open and operating.

“An attack on Hudaydah is not in the interest of any party, as it will directly and irrevocably drive the Yemeni population further into starvation and famine,” he said.
Warning of concern over lack of humanitarian access – particularly for medicine and medical supplies – in war-torn Yemen, a senior United Nations relief official has called on all parties to the conflict to ensure urgent and unrestricted access to people in need across the country, “Giving the UN and humanitarian partners safe and unimpeded access to those in need would be a strong demonstration by the warring parties of their concern for the Yemeni people,” said Jamie McGoldrick, the Humanitarian Coordinator in Yemen.

“It is imperative that humanitarians reach people in need without obstacle, wherever they may be,” he underscored.

According to the statement, administrative delays at ports, checkpoints, and interference with aid delivery have hampered efforts to transport medicine and medical supplies to people in need in a timely manner.

The access is all the more important now given the current threat of famine and outbreaks of cholera in locations throughout the country. Some 17 million Yemenis are battling food insecurity, making it the largest “hunger crisis” in the world.

“Recent information suggests that medicine supplies are being delayed from reaching Taizz City, where the need of the people is urgent. I call on the authorities in Sana’a, the capital of Yemen, to allow trucks carrying medicines into Taizz City without delay,” said the Humanitarian Coordinator.

Also in the statement, Mr. McGoldrick underscored the urgent need for additional resources and called on the international community to fund the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan.

In February this year, UN together with humanitarian partners launched an international appeal for $2.1 billion to provide life-saving assistance to millions in Yemen in 2017, the largest-ever humanitarian response plan for the country.

Last month, commitments amounting to little under $1.1 billion were made at a UN-led humanitarian pledging conference in Geneva.

“All commitments made during the pledging conference need to materialize at once,” stressed Mr. McGoldrick in the statement, adding: “While Yemen awaits for peace, humanitarian action is saving lives every day across the entire country.”
WHO responds to resurgent cholera in Yemen

The World Health Organization (WHO) and partners are responding to an upsurge in cholera transmission in several parts of Yemen that has claimed 51 lives and caused around 2752 suspected cases since 27 April 2017.

WHO has rapidly distributed medicines and medical supplies, including cholera kits, oral rehydration solutions and intravenous (IV) fluids as well as medical furniture and equipment for diarrhoea treatment centres. Ten new treatment centres are being established in affected areas.

WHO is also supporting health authorities to establish oral rehydration therapy corners to treat mild and moderate dehydration due to diarrhoea. Starting with 10 oral rehydration therapy corners in Sana’a, this approach will be replicated across all affected areas. More severe cases will be referred to the diarrhea treatment centres.

“We are very concerned with the re-emergence of cholera across several areas of Yemen in the past couple of weeks. Efforts must be scaled-up now to contain the outbreak and avoid a dramatic increase in cases of diarrhoeal disease,” said Dr Nevio Zagaria, WHO Representative in Yemen.

Cholera is an acute diarrhoeal infection caused by ingestion of food or water contaminated with the bacterium Vibrio cholera. Most of those infected will have no or mild symptoms but, in severe cases, the disease can kill within hours if left untreated.

The uptick in cholera cases comes as Yemen’s already weakened health system struggles under the weight of two years of conflict. Key infrastructure, including water and sanitation facilities, are collapsing, contributing to the spread of diarrhoeal disease. The weather is also playing a role: the pathogens that cause cholera are more likely to spread in warmer weather and recent heavy rains have washed piles of uncollected waste into water sources.

The cholera outbreak in Yemen was announced by Yemen’s Ministry of Public Health and Population (MoPHP) on 6 October 2016. WHO estimates that 7.6 million people live in areas at high risk of cholera transmission.

Prior to this recent resurgence, WHO had supported the rehabilitation of 26 diarrhoea treatment centers in the affected governorates and trained health workers to treat patients based on WHO case management, infection prevention and control standards. The Organization has also trained and supported the deployment of rapid response teams to investigate potential cases and chlorinate water sources in areas where cholera has been reported.

WHO continues to support the efforts of health authorities in enhancing diagnosis capacity, strengthening the disease surveillance system, delivering medicines to high-risk areas, organizing health education campaigns for at-risk populations and training national staff on case management and early detection and reporting.

“WHO is in full emergency mode to contain the recent upsurge of suspected cholera cases,” continued Dr Zagaria. “Containing the spread of the outbreak is a high priority for WHO and we are coordinating efforts with all parties and with our health, water and sanitation partners to scale up an integrated and effective response to the cholera epidemic.”
HELP PREVENT FAMINE WITH WFP’S SHARETHEMEAL APP DURING RAMADAN

To mark the Holy Month of Ramadan this year, ShareTheMeal, the official app of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), is launching two simultaneous fundraising campaigns -- one to help prevent famine in Yemen and another supporting Syrian refugee children and needy Lebanese children in Lebanon.

Ramadan is a time when families around the world share meals together. With ShareTheMeal, users have the opportunity to provide vital food and to help others share moments of joy and togetherness.

“Through ShareTheMeal, everyone in the global community can make a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters in Yemen and Lebanon,” said WFP Executive Director David Beasley. “What we all do together truly does save lives and change lives, step by step.”

WFP is funded entirely by contributions from governments, companies and individuals. This year for the first time, ShareTheMeal for Ramadan has a function giving users the power to choose where to send their donation. The first two countries to be included are Yemen and Lebanon.

With the app, users can share vital food and nutrition with hungry communities around the world by simply tapping on their smartphone and donating US$0.50 or more. The ShareTheMeal community recently contributed to WFP’s famine response in South Sudan, where users shared 1 million meals with those people in need in just over one month.

Recent features in Google Play and the Apple App Store, including Apple’s current ‘Ramadan Essentials,’ allow ShareTheMeal to reinforce its mission to engage as many smartphone users as possible in WFP’s efforts to achieve Zero Hunger.

On 18 May, ShareTheMeal won the 2017 Google Play Award for Best Social Impact app during Google’s I/O conference. WFP’s app has engaged a new generation in supporting the fight against hunger. More than 830,000 people have downloaded the app and shared over 13 million meals with thousands of vulnerable children in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Malawi and Cameroon.
UN has warned that a Saudi attack on Yemen’s Houthi-controlled port city of Hudaydah could displace half a million civilians.

"Between 100,000 and half a million people could be displaced as the conflict and humanitarian situation continue to worsen," said Shabia Mantoo, the spokesperson for the UN refugee agency.

Located in the southern Yemeni province of Ta’izz, Hudaydah is part of a broad battlefront where Saudi forces are fighting the Yemeni army and its Houthi allies, which are in control of most of Yemen’s northern and western regions. Some 80 percent of the war-torn country’s food imports and relief aid also come through the port.

"The humanitarian situation alone continues to worsen even without the conflict intensifying," she added.

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**Yemen: Acute Watery Diarrhea / Cholera Outbreak**

**Situation Report #2**

**Situation Overview**

- The number of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD)/ suspected cholera cases has increased dramatically and the outbreak expanded to 18 out of 22 governorates.
- Sana’a City is the most affected area, with more than 4000 suspected cholera cases. Cases have been reported across all districts and neighborhoods.
- From 27 April to 14 May 2017, a total of 11,046 suspected cholera/AWD cases were reported from 18 governorates, including Sana’a (13%), Amanat Al-Asimah (38%), Amran (9%), Dhamar (4%), Al-Mahweet (5%), Ibb (6%), Al-Dhale’a (3%), Hajjah (9%), Al-Hudaydah (1%), Taiz (3%), Abyan (2%), Raymah (1%), Aden (1%) Sa’adah (1%) and Al-Bayda (4%) governorates.
- Out of the total reported cases, 124 deaths were reported.
- A total of 208 cholera cases have been confirmed by laboratory testing.
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

MESSAGE ON WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY

Journalists go to the most dangerous places to give voice to the voiceless.

Media workers suffer character assassination, sexual assault, detention, injuries and even death.

We need leaders to defend a free media. This is crucial to counter prevailing misinformation.

And we need everyone to stand for our right to truth.

On World Press Freedom Day, I call for an end to all crackdowns against journalists – because a free press advances peace and justice for all.

When we protect journalists, their words and pictures can change our world.