

A Lifeline for Children and Families in Yemen

Yemen's four-year civil war continues despite recent calls for a ceasefire. Children are bearing a shocking burden as bombs and artillery shells fall, food shortages grow worse and medical care is harder to find.

The UN recently warned that Yemen is at risk of “the worst famine in 100 years,” with 13 million people at risk of starving, including millions of children. We estimate that 85,000 children may have already died from extreme hunger and disease since the war escalated in 2015, and that number is rising every day.

“Our teams on the ground meet families bringing in their severely malnourished and unresponsive children, desperate to save them,” says Tamer Kirolos, our Yemen Country Director. “There is nothing worse than watching a child die of starvation while food is prevented from entering the country and violence hinders its distribution. Even where food is available, many people simply can’t afford it. Malnourished children are succumbing to preventable diseases because life-saving medicines are delayed at ports and checkpoints.”



We treated 13-month-old Nusair* for malnutrition in August, but then his family fled fighting and could not afford the food he needed. When we located Nusair, he had become malnourished once again. We helped with the boy's hospital care and with food for the family. Photo: Mohammed Awadh/Save the Children
*name changed for privacy

Our courageous staff and partners inside Yemen risk it all to provide humanitarian relief to children and families in the face of conflict and instability. They have reached more than 2 million children and adults in the past year – but as conditions grow worse, we can and must do more to provide food and medical care, access to clean water and sanitation, and protect the most vulnerable girls and boys from further harm.

Food and Nutrition: We distribute food to children and to pregnant and lactating women. We also provide families with cash and vouchers so that they can purchase food themselves. We've helped to feed over 1 million children and adults since our response began. Children are screened for malnutrition and, when we identify girls and boys who are in danger, we treat them in special nutrition stabilization centers or provide their families with food and guidance so they can treat children at home.

Health Care: We support over 200 health facilities and mobile health teams that bring care to families in some of the hardest-to-reach areas. We also respond to cholera and diphtheria outbreaks and have trained health care workers and volunteers.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: 16 million people lack clean water and sanitation. In some parts of Yemen, water is only available for an hour a day. We provide families with hygiene supplies and teach children and adults about good hygiene practices.

Protecting Children from Harm: Our child-friendly spaces give children safe areas to learn, play, and receive a respite from the stress of living in a war zone. Since we opened our first child-friendly space, over 129,000 children have participated in activities.

Emergency Education: In some places, fighting has destroyed three in every four schools. Our education team has opened temporary learning spaces so children don't miss out on their education. We also support schools that remain open, train teachers and provide essential equipment. We've also educated over 23,000 children about the dangers of landmines and handling unexploded munitions.

The Difference You Can Make: Helping to Save Razan's Sight

Your funds can help us make a profound impact in the lives of Yemeni children like Razan*, at right, who was hurt this summer as she and her father fled an airstrike in the city of Hodeidah. Injured in the eye by a piece of shrapnel, Razan, 8, could not be treated because the family could not afford transportation to a special hospital. When her father, Samir, asked if she could see out of her injured eye, the brave girl lied and said yes. When our staff discovered Razan's plight, we arranged for her to have two sight-saving surgeries, and Razan can see again.

*name changed for privacy



Mohammed Awadh/Save the Children