



YEMEN

FACTS AND FIGURES

2019

TOTAL POPULATION

27.6 MILLION

TOTAL POPULATION UNDER 15

13 MILLION

CHILDREN AFFECTED BY CONFLICT

11 MILLION

Country budget	\$2,737,352
Unrestricted funding required	\$464,026
Anticipated total Beneficiary number for 2019	12,000

NATIONAL CONTEXT

Yemen is in the grips of one of the world’s worst humanitarian crises.

A catastrophic war has ravaged the country for more than three years now, leaving infrastructure badly damaged, millions of people impoverished and starving, and hundreds of thousands infected with cholera. More than 20.7 million Yemenis need emergency assistance and protection, and innocent children are dying on a daily basis from bombing or starvation.

The devastating conflict began in 2014 when Shiite rebels, known as the Houthis, stormed the capital of Sana’a which eventually led to the exile of the government. Although the conflict started locally, a growing fear of Iranian influence led to the involvement of Saudi Arabia in March 2015.

The Saudi-led coalition has further aggravated the situation by closing Yemen’s airspace and imposing a blockade. This has led to hundreds of thousands of people dying from their injuries and illnesses, a stark lack of media attention to highlight the severity of the crisis, and mass starvation that has gripped the country in one of the worst food crises of our time.

THE SITUATION OF CHILDREN

The UN reports that two million children are malnourished, with one in two now suffering from stunted growth because of food shortages. Malnutrition has also left children vulnerable to disease and illness, including a cholera epidemic. Education has been shattered, leaving 3.4 million out of school. The result is a child protection crisis with an estimated 7.4 million children in need of protection assistance. As the fighting continues, children continue to wage their own fight for their lives.



OUR VISION

In order to address the significant need within Yemen, War Child UK will work to solidify our operational presence within the country in 2019. We will also diversify our work within Yemen, expanding child protection and education programming, and our geographical reach. Our vision is that War Child UK will become the preferred and trusted international NGO in Yemen to build the capacity of local actors.

WHAT WE DO

After successfully securing our registration to operate in Yemen at the end of 2016, we have established our country team in and around Sana'a throughout 2017-2018. With significant political challenges around protection work and based on the staggering need of the population, War Child UK has started its first food assistance programme in Yemen. Ensuring that children have food to eat remains the main focus of our intervention through unconditional direct cash transfers. With the education system on the brink of collapse, we have also started an education-focused intervention.



CURRENT PROJECTS

Tackling the Food Crisis

As the country is on the brink of famine, our priority is to keep children fed and healthy. Our team provides households with direct cash transfers, improving their ability to access food and vital goods. Our work is currently focused in Sana'a.

Promoting Hygiene

The war has turned Yemen into a fertile environment for the spread of cholera. Our team in Yemen is training international NGOs working on water, sanitation and hygiene and staff in 22 Health Centres on how to work with children and keep them safe whilst preventing the spread of the disease and other epidemics.

Education and Psychosocial support

To ensure children's access to education, we are working on refurbishing schools. Each school we refurbish will have new classrooms, a playground and a Child Friendly Classroom where our facilitators can deliver Psychosocial Support Activities to children to help them overcome the stress and traumas of war. Our team in Yemen also carries out a Back to School Campaign, distributes school kits to students, and supports their legal enrolment as well as the provision of birth certificates to give them access to public services.

Stopping the Sale of Arms to Saudi Arabia

The UK sells billions of pounds-worth of weapons to Saudi Arabia that are being used as part of its brutal war against Yemen. Our team in the UK have advocated on behalf of these vulnerable children, lobbying the UK government to halt all arm transfers to Saudi Arabia until it ends the blockade and bombings.

HOW CAN WAR CHILD AUSTRALIA HELP

A donation to War Child Australia will support the War Child UK team in Yemen, enable their geographical expansion and help the programme to continue to give families access to food, provide psycho-social support to children, offer child-friendly environments in schools and rebuild their education, giving them the opportunity to reclaim their future after the utter disruption that conflict brings. This will include identifying out-of-school children, assisting them in attending a local school and providing school kits.