



Security Council Action Vital in Breaking Deadly Links Between Conflict and Hunger



Save the Children World Vision



Introduction

After years of the rate of hunger declining worldwide, recently it has risen sharply again. The most recent global data on hunger and malnutrition indicates that there are about 815 million undernourished people in the world today, up from 777 million the previous yearⁱ. Conflict is the main reason behind this reversal. The majority of hungry and malnourished people live in countries affected by conflict – 489 million out of the 815 million people. Almost 75% of the world's 155 million stunted children under the age of five live in countries affected by conflictⁱⁱ. This reflects broader trends where civilians disproportionately bear the cost of armed conflict, conflict is increasingly urbanised, and the proliferation of non-state armed actors and intra-state violence make accountability for international law increasingly challenging. Hunger is too often not only a byproduct of the changing nature of conflict, but it is increasingly the result of a deliberate tactic used by warring parties to deny access to food and other lifesaving assistance in contravention of international law – the aim is to literally starve the enemy into submission.

However, famine, hunger and malnutrition are avoidable. Besides the immediate devastating impact of conflict and hunger on human lives and communities, the UN reports that the current situation means “an entire generation will likely grow up to face diminished productive capacity, income-earning potential and social skills with far-reaching implications for many communities and countriesⁱⁱⁱ.”

On 22nd February 2017, the UN Secretary General announced there were pockets of famine in South Sudan and a very credible

risk of famine in Somalia, Yemen and North East Nigeria. While famine may have been averted or contained last year millions of people remain food insecure because of conflict. Despite some successes, the number of people experiencing severe hunger as a direct consequence of armed conflict continues to rise in these four countries and elsewhere – including but not limited to the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Central African Republic, and Syria. In some of these cases countries are entering their third, fourth, or even seventh year of conflict. The longer these conflicts go on, the more difficult it will be for those who survive to recover and rebuild – physically, psychologically and economically.

In Yemen, the number of people who are extremely food insecure and at risk of starvation in the country has risen by 24% to 8.4 million since April 2017^{iv}. In several countries, including the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Central African Republic, and Syria^v, the situation is also getting worse and pockets of hunger are developing rapidly. The number of people in need of humanitarian and longer-term assistance globally is rising.

This briefing makes a number of recommendations to Security Council members ahead of the Conflict and Hunger discussion on March 23, underscoring the international peace and security dimensions of conflict-related food insecurity, as well setting out some of the ways lives can be saved, and how longer-term development and stability can be achieved by answering people's needs appropriately.

¹ The classification of 'famine' is the fifth and most extreme stage in the 'Integrated Phase Classification' on Acute Food Insecurity. Stage 3 is 'Crisis' and Stage 4 is 'Emergency' and these apply when an area is experiencing significant to extreme levels of acute malnutrition, consumption gaps and livelihood losses.

The UN Security Council should:

- Acknowledge the importance of principled humanitarian action and call upon parties to the conflict to stop denying civilians access to lifesaving humanitarian aid as a tactic of war
- Safeguard and insist on full, unimpeded, facilitated humanitarian access by all parties to conflict
- Make clear to parties to the conflict the costs and consequences of denying civilians access to humanitarian aid
- Utilize the mechanisms of its different agendas (e.g. the Children and Armed Conflict's Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism) to gather information on denials of access and seek regular briefings on country-specific situations
- Uphold international humanitarian law, human rights law, refugee law, and international criminal law through all tools available to it
- Support displaced populations through reinforcing efforts to ensure refugees are not forced to return home involuntarily and encouraging pathways towards durable solutions
- End conflict, build peace, and increase accountability for famine and extreme hunger



Acknowledge the importance of a principled humanitarian response

Impartiality, neutrality, humanity and independence are core principles of humanitarian action and they are critical to enabling humanitarian actors to reach the most vulnerable people. In conflict-affected areas, a clear distinction needs to be maintained between actors with humanitarian and military mandates. Furthermore, counterterrorism policies can have a devastating impact on the delivery of humanitarian assistance to civilians in need. Blurring the lines between them can restrict humanitarian access and put humanitarians at increased security risk. There is a continued need for the Security Council to promote the implementation and respect of humanitarian principles.

Safeguard humanitarian access

Humanitarian action saves lives, but only when those in need can access it. Across almost all crises before the UN Security Council, people are denied or unable to access essential aid, and often the most vulnerable people are the worst affected. Physical and bureaucratic impediments to the operations of humanitarian actors put lives at risk and limit aid effectiveness. In some countries, such as CAR, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, and Syria, humanitarian access to populations in dire need of aid is restricted by ongoing fighting, repeated attacks on humanitarian convoys, and by bureaucratic issues, such as the excessively high cost of work permits.

Access to many areas is almost entirely controlled by security forces, and movement restrictions leave thousands of people trapped with no assistance.

In Yemen, a greater challenge is the restrictions on sea, land and air trade routes and commercial airspace imposed by Saudi led coalition. This has severely restricted the supply of vital commodities such as food, fuel and medicines, as well as restricting access for humanitarian personnel and supplies.

The Security Council can and should play a key role in enabling the safe, unhindered and rapid access of populations to humanitarian aid by engaging with national and regional authorities to apply diplomatic pressure and insist on the removal of access constraints and enable the movement of humanitarian staff, goods and services, as well as by ensuring accountability for violations.

Uphold international humanitarian and human rights law

Upholding international law and the norms which underpin it in conflict settings is critical to better protecting civilian populations from harm related to extreme hunger and famine. Too often civilian infrastructure and objects are deliberately targeted or insufficiently protected from armed conflict.

We are approaching a new normal where it is acceptable to allow the destruction of crops, interruption of markets, attacking of water points, hospitals, and schools. All of these actions deepen hunger and increase the vulnerability of groups – especially children who are often forced from their homes in search of food and assistance. All too often there is a lack of accountability for state actors and other agents who are responsible for attacks on civilian populations, destruction of civilian infrastructure, and denial of access to land and productive resources, and for the persecution of minority groups or women.

Denial of humanitarian access, weaponisation of food, failure to enable the right to food, and violating the protection of civilians and civilian objects are all violations of IHL and International Human Rights Law. International Criminal Law also prohibits individual action which uses famine and mass starvation as a method of warfare^{vi}. Nevertheless, across the countries mentioned in this brief, we are seeing sustained behavior in breach of international legal frameworks.

To address violations of international law, and prevent famine, the Security Council must call for all actors in conflict situations to prioritise the protection of civilians, to stop violations, to investigate alleged abuses and hold perpetrators to account. State military actors should also be routinely trained in IHL. Improved reporting mechanisms for diplomatic avenues should be used wherever possible to raise allegations of abuses and ensure robust, transparent investigations are completed, with those responsible held accountable.

Further, the Security Council should continue to explore opportunities to strengthen the legal framework relating to conflict and hunger. This may include strengthening domestic law, improving reporting, and creating more automatic and depoliticized mechanisms for humanitarian aid to reach those who need it most.

Support displaced populations

In the last two decades, the number of displaced people in the world has nearly doubled to over 65 million^{vii}. The vast majority of these remain within their own countries. The number of internally displaced people (IDPs) has risen by over 10 million in the last four years, mostly in hunger and conflict affected countries.

IDPs and their children are almost twice as likely as refugees to die from conflict-related causes, particularly disease and starvation. Most are in situations of protracted displacement lasting many years, sometimes even decades. Displaced people often find themselves living in communities who are themselves in extreme poverty and who are often, due to conflict, already coping with food shortages and reduced livelihoods. This means that it is critical that humanitarian assistance is delivered solely based on needs, and not on having the status of refugee, displaced person or host community, nor on living in or outside a camp.

In Somalia for instance, at least one million people were internally displaced as a result of the hunger crisis. This has implications for those people's food security, but also leaves them more vulnerable to further human rights violations. All actors must support people on the move to ensure their safety, rights and essential needs are met. The Security Council should publicly acknowledge the generosity of refugee hosting countries.



Further, while many displaced people and refugees are eager to return home when it is safe to do so, the Security Council should call for the respect for International Refugee Law to ensure that they are not encouraged or forced to return home either involuntarily, or without full knowledge of the prospective hunger, livelihood and security situation. Returning prematurely can risk making people even more vulnerable.

Lastly, durable solutions are also needed for the many people who have no prospect of being able to return home for a long time, this includes expanding also opportunities for local integration and resettlement, and the Security Council has an important role to play in highlighting the importance of durable solutions in allowing displaced people to sustain themselves.

End conflict, build peace, and increase accountability for famine and extreme hunger

A recent report from a discussion series on conflict and hunger^{viii} proposes a number of actions that the Security Council can take to prevent and resolve situations of conflict and hunger. It is imperative that the Security Council continues discussions on the peace and security implications of acute food insecurity as well as the appropriate response mechanisms.

Early action based on forecasting and data can significantly reduce the impact of a developing hunger crisis, saving lives by reaching vulnerable people before the prevalence and severity of malnutrition and hunger escalates, and reducing the need for a costlier humanitarian response. Further, there is some emerging thinking which demonstrates that food security data can be used as an indicator of conflict escalation. Using existing

early warning mechanisms such as the IPC and reports from WFP and FAO, the Security Council can use its diplomatic tools to resolve conflicts, thus preventing a deterioration of food security and nutrition indicators.

Conflict-Hunger Situations

Central African Republic

The situation in CAR has taken a particularly deadly turn for civilians since May 2017. There have been violent clashes between armed groups, and targeted violence against civilians is widespread, including increasing attacks against humanitarian personnel. Forced displacement inside CAR and to neighboring countries has increased throughout 2017, with more than one million people on the move out of a total population of 5 million.

Half of the population is in need of humanitarian assistance and 48% of the population suffers from hunger and receives only one meal a day, according to WFP. The 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan was less than 40% funded, and out of the \$515 million needed in 2018, only \$7 million has been funded in March 2018.

Following repeated attacks on humanitarian actors, humanitarian space is shrinking in CAR, along with access to basic and life-saving services. All parties must respect the distinction between military, political and humanitarian actions. All actors should work together to improve the protection of humanitarian action in the country and ensure full and unfettered humanitarian access.

The Security Council must continue to prioritize a political resolution of the conflict and ensure ongoing support for all initiatives leading to a political resolution.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

The protracted crisis in Democratic Republic of the Congo has brutally deteriorated in the last two years. The number of people in need in early 2018 is 79% more than those identified early last year. In 2018 13.1 million people living in Congo are in now need of humanitarian assistance. This is the same number as in Syria in 2017.

This dramatic rise in need is due to the explosion of new conflicts and intensified old ones within an overall context of a major political crisis. The Kasai regions, Tanganyika and now Ituri, have all flared up and led to mass violence. Armed group in the East have multiplied and historic conflicts in North Kivu and South Kivu are getting increasingly severe. Violence and insecurity have forced over five million people to flee their homes. 4.5 million Congolese are internally displaced, with over half a million people fleeing to neighbouring countries.

Widespread violence has led to the destruction of livelihoods and agricultural stocks, has interrupted commercial and agricultural activities and has led to large-

scale displacement. Agricultural production has broken down in affected areas, and displaced persons have often lost everything and are now facing acute levels of need. The movement of returnees has become significant in some regions such as Kasai, however a large number of the returnees have lost everything and don't have the means (agricultural inputs, tools, etc) or access to land to cultivate for the upcoming season and rebuild livelihoods. In some regions such as Ituri, Tanganyika and Kasai, the upcoming agricultural season is likely to be severely affected and experience below-average production and increased hunger. Other negative factors such as pests and the current economic crisis are aggravating those trends and are pushing an increased number of poor households into severe food insecurity.

As a result, 7.7 million people currently suffer from acute levels of food insecurity – 30% more than last year – and 2 million children are suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). Out of the \$1.6 billion needed for humanitarian assistance in 2018, only \$71 million has been funded to date. Humanitarian actors are unable to



adequately respond to the crisis without further support from the international community: for instance, in 2017, the nutrition cluster was only able to treat 17% of the children suffering from life-threatening severe acute malnutrition due to lack of funding.

The Security Council has a major role to play in addressing the link between conflict and hunger in DRC. This includes calling for increase donor commitments for DRC, ensuring sufficient resources are committed to protect populations; calling for the unhindered and security delivery of humanitarian assistance; and in supporting a peaceful solution to the current political crisis.

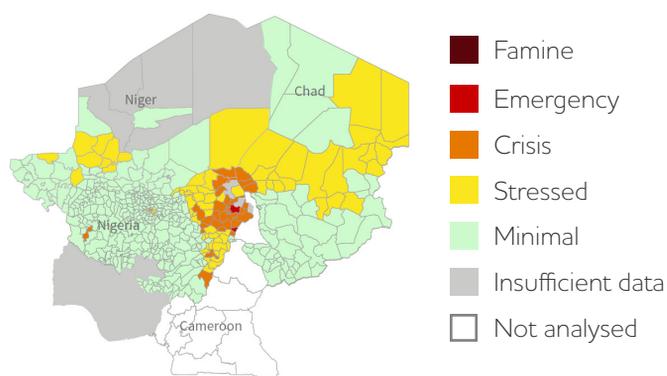
Nigeria and the Lake Chad Basin

For nearly nine years, there has been an intensifying conflict in Nigeria between security forces and non-state armed actors, primarily factions of Boko Haram, which has spilled over into Cameroon, Niger and Chad. This has destroyed livelihoods and led to over 2 million people being displaced in an escalating humanitarian crisis. In Nigeria alone, there are now 7.7 million people in need of humanitarian assistance in the North Eastern states. Of these, there are 1.2 million children and pregnant or lactating women suffering from malnutrition. The Humanitarian Response Plan for 2018 requires 1.05 billion USD to reach 6.1 million people, or 88% of those in need, with at least some form of assistance. In 2017 donors funded 71% of this same amount, however, even with funding at this level the humanitarian community has struggled to keep famine at bay, as continuing conflict drives needs that remain at emergency levels in many areas.

The violence is often targeted at civilians, and attacks on schools and health facilities mean nearly 3 million children are estimated to be missing out on

education. These attacks have also led to widespread destruction of water and sanitation infrastructure, which in turn has led to an increase in cholera. Other common diseases such as malaria, pneumonia, hepatitis and diarrhoea are also on the rise. Displacement continues, driven both by the violence and by forced relocation, with an estimated 50,000 newly displaced since October 2017. Approximately 930,000 people have not had access to humanitarian assistance for at least two years.

The protracted conflict has destroyed lives and livelihoods. In northeast Nigeria, Boko Haram has severely damaged the country's main food-growing areas. Small-scale producers are finding it extremely difficult to access their farmlands, fisheries and markets, owing to the destruction of transport routes, the risk of being ambushed or targeted in clearance exercises, and continuing restrictions by authorities who prohibit movement of goods and livelihoods like fishing in certain areas. In 2015, the production of various staple crops in northeast Nigeria fell by an average of 76% compared with output levels in the four previous years. The lack of livelihoods is one of the factors making people, and especially women and children, vulnerable to exploitation and abuse in order to survive. The rate of such incidents remains high.



Source: *Monitoring food security in countries with conflict situations*, FAO and WFP, 2018. Link: <http://www.fao.org/3/18386EN/i8386en.pdf>

Somalia

Somalia has endured decades of violent conflict and is extremely vulnerable to slow-onset drought crises. Despite a peaceful transition of power following the 2017 Presidential elections, the presence of extremism, for example of Al-Shabaab and Islamic State, combined with clan conflicts, has contributed to a situation of protracted instability and insecurity. This is disrupting trade and agriculture, triggering displacement of people and limiting humanitarian access in several areas.

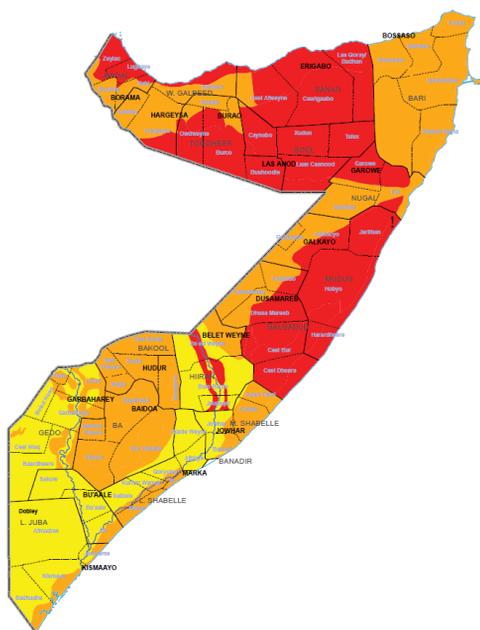
Unprecedented successive poor rainy seasons exacerbate Somalia's food security crisis leading to poor cereal harvests and significant losses of household assets, especially livestock. Season after season of poor rains, the high cost of inputs and insecurity have resulted in a reduced cereal harvest in the southern 'breadbasket' areas (13% below average in 2017) and a virtual failure in north western areas (87% below average in 2017)^{ix}.

In 2017, the Somalia humanitarian community managed to avert a possible famine, particularly in several north-eastern areas. Nevertheless, in 2018, an estimated 5.4 million people, half of whom are children, will continue to need

humanitarian assistance and protection, of these 2.7 million will require urgent life-saving assistance, this includes 500 000 people – six times more than in early 2017 – in Emergency (IPC phase 4) and who remain on the brink of famine^x.

2018 will be a difficult year. Somalia has declared a drought emergency in Puntland and Somaliland, and continues to fight recurrent drought elsewhere. This will have a dramatic impact in an economy largely based on rain fed agro-pastoralism. The Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) and Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit for Somalia (FSNAU) data from its December 2017 assessment, estimates that 301,000 children between six months and five years of age are suffering from acute malnutrition, including 48,000 who are severely malnourished and face an increased risk of disease and death^{xi}. Gender-based violence is on the increase, in particular in IDP settlements and exploitative relationships between IDPs and landowners or 'gatekeepers' are recurrent, affecting the access of IDPs to assistance and information, and increasing vulnerability and risk. A significant increase in forced child recruitment in the second half of 2017, mostly in areas under the control of non-state armed actors in southern and central Somalia, is contributing to further displacement. The estimated number of internally displaced now in Somalia is above two million persons.

The Security Council has a key role to play in highlighting the ongoing humanitarian crisis, ensuring the respect for international humanitarian and human rights law, and for supporting unimpeded humanitarian access to all populations in need. Humanitarian partners will strive to keep famine at bay and begin appropriate recovery interventions in 2018. However, this will only be possible if resources are provided early to avoid major disruptions to the ongoing response operation.



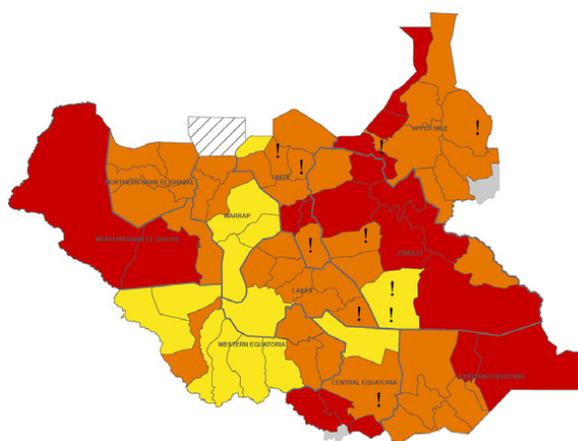
South Sudan

Political upheaval and ongoing conflict have continued to cause economic decline, food deficits and widespread displacement- contributing to a spiraling humanitarian emergency. The humanitarian crisis has continued to deepen and spread across South Sudan and there are now 7 million people in the country – about two thirds of the population – in need of humanitarian assistance.

The conflict has driven the displacement of 4 million people internally and across borders. It has also triggered an economic crisis and disease outbreaks, all adding to record high rates of food insecurity. Over 100,000 people in the former Unity State were declared to be in famine in February 2017. While urgent humanitarian response helped to prevent the spread of famine, rates of food insecurity have remained high in many regions, amidst a year-on-year worsening trend. Nearly 1.1 million children under the age of 5 are estimated to be acutely malnourished and in need of life-saving services, and malnutrition has reached critical levels as a result of poor hygiene and sanitation, disease outbreaks, very poor diet, and extremely limited access to health services. Severe food insecurity has risen again to 5.3 million people^{xii} in early 2018, with the worst-case scenario of a return to famine in multiple locations across the country^{xiii}.

Conflict and insecurity have disrupted livelihoods and markets. The economic crisis is devastating households, with hyperinflation driven by currency devaluation making food and clean water increasingly un-affordable. Seasonal and climatic shocks such as floods, drought spells and crop and livestock diseases and pests, including a recent fall armyworm infestation, have further compounded the effects with an earlier than normal lean season.

In the face of this large-scale need, active conflict, political, bureaucratic and logistical factors are restricting the access of humanitarian actors to some of the most vulnerable populations. At least 97 aid workers have been killed in South Sudan since the start of the conflict, and 30 were killed in 2017 alone^{xiv}. The vast majority of these fatalities were South Sudanese nationals. In addition, attacks on convoys and warehouses, widespread insecurity, and a lack of roads and transport infrastructure are just some of the factors that have also led to serious access constraints.



Syria

The conflict in Syria has created an unprecedented food security crisis, with 10.5 million people inside the country now food insecure. Though there were limited issues with drought and food production prior to the conflict – with some studies suggesting that a severe drought from 2007-2010 and subsequent population movement to the cities may have contributed to the outbreak of armed violence – it is the conduct of hostilities that has created the current crisis.

Military actions in Syria have caused mass displacement of civilians, with 6.1 million people now internally displaced and 5.4 million having fled abroad. These large scale population movements have eroded family and social networks,

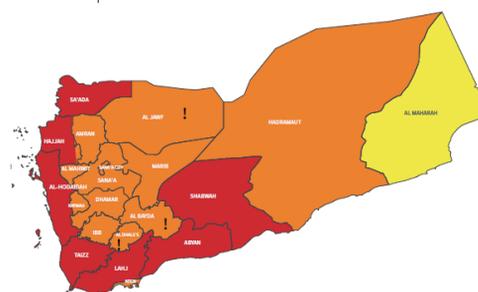
destroyed assets and cut off people's livelihoods and purchasing power. At the same time, the prices of basic commodities in many areas remains high - the December inflation rate was estimated at 43.2 percent by Syria's Central Bureau of Statistics^{xv}.

The Syria conflict has been marked by siege tactics used by many parties to the conflict, attacks on civilian infrastructure such as markets, severe restrictions on humanitarian access and non-respect of UNSC resolutions. According to OCHA, as of December 2017, 2.9 million people were living in hard-to-reach areas and 417,566 remained trapped in besieged areas. The use of these tactics has led to high rates of malnutrition and under-nutrition in the affected population, including reports of both adults and children dying of hunger-related causes. UNICEF staff who visited children evacuated from the besieged Damascus suburb of Eastern Ghouta on March 13th 2018 said they showed "clear signs of malnutrition" and "micronutrient deficiencies; very dry and cracked skin, fatigue, lesions on the edges of the mouth. Most of the very young children were also Vitamin D deficient and cannot walk properly."^{xvi}

Families living in these areas have been forced to adopt extreme coping mechanisms, often for months or years at a time - including reducing meals to a minimum and cutting out fresh food. Meanwhile, sustained attacks on healthcare facilities and the blocking of medical aid has limited or destroyed the ability of hospitals to treat acute malnutrition, especially in areas where they are overwhelmed by trauma cases.

Conflict has also destroyed essential infrastructure, including agricultural lands and water irrigation systems, reducing overall food production. Livestock - an important source of income for farmers as well as a food source - has in some instances been abandoned or slaughtered

by populations fleeing conflict. In certain zones (especially in Aleppo and Raqqa governorates)^{xvii}, the utilization of mines and other explosive devices (like clusters bombs) have rendered agricultural lands unusable, or they have been set ablaze in airstrikes and shelling. Where agriculture is still possible, farmers have been affected by a strict sanctions regime imposed on Syria, and face difficulties importing seeds and seedlings, as well as basic agricultural machinery. All of this has contributed to the widespread food insecurity we see across Syria today, an issue that was minor prior to the conflict.



Yemen



Almost three years of conflict between the Government of Yemen, backed by the Saudi-led Coalition (SLC), and Al-Houthi (Ansar Allah) aligned forces has created the largest humanitarian crisis in the world today. The 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan for Yemen has identified 22.2 million people in need of humanitarian assistance or protection, of which 11.3 million are in acute need^{xviii}. The civilian impact of the conflict has been brutal. Since March 2015, the conflict has led to at least 5,558 civilian deaths and 9,065 civilian injuries^{xix} (though these numbers are likely to be a significant underestimate). Now over 60% of the population live with food insecurity and 8.4 million people are at risk of famine^{xx}.

Several man-made factors have driven Yemen's food security crisis. One is a steep decline in agricultural productivity in a country where more than half the population is employed in agriculture^{xxi}. The blockade of Yemen's

sea and air ports by the SLC is a further critical factor. Yemen has historically been 80-90% dependent on imported food, fuel and medicine to support and feed its population, but commercial shipping access has been severely restricted since 2015 and manifested in a total blockade of Yemen's sea and airports in November 2017. Restrictions remain in place, and the rate of vital supplies coming in is far below what is needed. Crucially, around 70% of all imports, in particular food, have typically come through these two ports. The UN Secretary-General has called for the urgent resumption of all commercial imports, without which millions of children, women and men risk mass hunger, disease and death.

Shortages of critical supplies of food and fuel, combined with currency depreciation^{xxii}, has resulted in price hikes, pushing basic food, water and healthcare costs beyond the purchasing power of millions of people. An estimated 1.25 million public servants have not been paid their usual salaries since August 2016 which compounds the problem^{xxiii}. The overall collapse of public services, including health service, water pumping and treatment systems and garbage collection networks also add to the hardship of the Yemeni population.

The malnutrition crisis now means that in Yemen, a child under five dies every ten minutes from preventable causes^{xxiv} - more than 1,000 each week. Close to 4.5 million children and pregnant or lactating women are acutely malnourished. Damage and destruction of facilities during violence, the low supply of medicine and equipment, and the non-payment of staff salaries all exacerbate the enormous stress on the health system caused by high rates of malnutrition and the rising incidence of diseases, such as cholera and diphtheria.

All parties to the conflict have been accused of failing to respect International Humanitarian Law by blocking and imped-

ing humanitarian access. Humanitarian personnel have been killed, detained and kidnapped, airstrikes and clashes have frequently taken place in close proximity to humanitarian services, and civilians continue to die as a direct or indirect result of violence. Both the Saudi-led Coalition and Houthis are using weapons banned under international treaties^{xxv}, and both have been listed for grave violations against children^{xxvi}.

Despite the very challenging operational environment in Yemen there are about 150 humanitarian organisations working across Yemen and, as of December 2017, they had reached over 5.8 million people with food assistance^{xxvii}. The funding required to fulfill the UN's 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan is \$2.96bn. This must be supported by the complete lifting of the blockade of key ports, and by all parties respecting international humanitarian and human rights law.

The humanitarian community welcomes any increase in humanitarian aid and infrastructural investment in Yemen. Every bit of help is needed. However, Yemen's rapidly deteriorating humanitarian and economic crises will not be solved with money and goods alone; the conditions driving this crisis can only be reversed through an end to the war: an immediate and robust ceasefire, and the return to peace negotiations.

Until then, whilst humanitarian aid is needed, the key for the sustainable supply of food, medicines and other goods, and the recovery of Yemen's economy lies in full, steady and unimpeded access for commercial imports to the country through all land, air and sea ports, including Hodeida, on Yemen's west coast. Ongoing restrictions or further blockade measures will lead to the worst famine and public health emergency that the world has seen in a generation. Ultimately, only a ceasefire and negotiated peace deal will allow vital public services and families purchasing power to recover.

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