

## **Joint NGO Statement**

### **UNGA 80: Yemen's Humanitarian Crisis Must Not Be Forgotten**

**Monday 22 September 2025** - As world leaders gather in New York for the 80th UN General Assembly, we, the undersigned humanitarian organizations working in Yemen, urge urgent and decisive action to address the worsening crisis in Yemen threatening to push millions of families past the brink of catastrophe. Yemen's crisis has stripped people down to the most basic of needs – making every day a struggle for survival.

**Today over 17 million people are facing hunger**, with at least 41,000 of them being at risk of experiencing catastrophic levels of hunger - the toll on children being alarmingly staggering. At least **2.4 million children under five are suffering from acute malnutrition**, including hundreds of thousands at risk of severe acute malnutrition – a life-threatening condition without immediate treatment. Tragically, based on known records, at least two children have already lost their lives to malnutrition in recent months.

These figures are far from static — hunger and malnutrition are projected to worsen sharply in the coming months as aid cuts, disease outbreaks, and economic decline continue to erode families' ability to cope. In one out of five households, someone goes a full day and night without any food at all. This includes children going to bed hungry, while parents are skipping meals so their little ones can have whatever little is available — leaving them feeling helpless as their children grow ill and severely weak. Without urgent action in the remaining months of 2025, vulnerable areas in Yemen will likely plunge into famine.

In recent weeks flash floods have torn through parts of Yemen, killing and injuring **157** people, destroying shelters, and washing away arable lands which threatens livelihoods and risks worsening hunger. More than **50,600 families**, many of whom are internally displaced, have now lost their homes and sources of income to the floods.<sup>1</sup>

Damaged water and sanitation infrastructure – already fragile as a result of the conflict, coupled with limited access to healthcare, continue to fuel the spread of the diseases. As of the end of July, over **58,000 suspected cases of cholera and acute watery diarrhea**, with **163 associated deaths**, have been reported – making Yemen one of the worst-affected countries in the world<sup>2</sup>. In addition, reports of dengue fever cases indicate concerning rise compared to 2024 figures. Epidemiological surveillance and response efforts are further hampered by the lack of funding, meaning the true scale of the

---

<sup>1</sup> OCHA Report on Yemen: Heavy Rains and Flooding, Situation Update No. 01  
[Yemen: Heavy Rains and Flooding, Situation Update No. 01 - Yemen | ReliefWeb](#)

<sup>2</sup> WHO, Multi-country outbreak of cholera, external situation report #29 -28 August 2025 ,  
<https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/multi-country-outbreak-of-cholera--external-situation-report--29--28-august-2025?utm>

outbreak is likely far higher than the reported figures. Women and girls continue to be disproportionately impacted.

This situation is forcing vulnerable and marginalized families and communities to adopt negative coping mechanisms such as early marriages, taking children out of school and child labor. Together with reduction in services, adoption of such strategies has long term implications for the future generations of Yemen.

The regional tensions, continue to spill over into Yemen, destabilizing the country and further worsening the humanitarian situation. Attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure remain widespread, with **over 880 civilian casualties reported so far in 2025**,<sup>3</sup> alongside extensive damage to critical infrastructure.

Aid workers – the lifeline for millions – face constant threats. The recent round of detention targeting UN staff members, along with previous detentions of humanitarian staff since June 2024 and prior, has escalated risks and deeply obstructed lifesaving assistance.

The **2025 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan** is severely underfunded, standing at only **18 per cent as of early September** – the lowest level of funding for the country’s appeal in a decade. Out of the **19.5 million people in need**, the appeal was already only intended to assist **10.5 million**,<sup>4</sup> but current funding levels mean that even the vast majority of those will be left without planned assistance. The situation has forced humanitarian actors to make **impossible choices**, often described as *taking food from the hungry to feed the starving*.

Despite the immense challenges, hope remains as aid organizations continue reaching 3.7 million people each month – constituting less than 35 per cent of those targeted - with food, water, healthcare, protection, shelter, and cash assistance<sup>5</sup>. This demonstrates our commitment and ability to deliver aid where it is needed. We stand ready to reach far more people in crisis and to support the people in Yemen to recover and rebuild their lives, if funding is scaled up to meet the immense needs.

Yemen is at a breaking point. The international community must act decisively:

- **Scale up humanitarian funding:** Donor governments must urgently provide sufficient resources to ensure that food, health, water, and protection programs continue without interruption for those in need.
- **Centrality of protection** is ensured in all interventions, with adequate **funding for protection-related** services.

---

<sup>3</sup> According to the Civilian Impact Monitoring Project

<sup>4</sup> OCHA, Yemen Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2025 (January 2025) [EN/AR], 15 January 2025

<https://reliefweb.int/report/yemen/yemen-humanitarian-needs-and-response-plan-2025-january-2025-enar>

<sup>5</sup> OCHA, 68 aid organizations in Yemen call for solidarity and urgent action on World Humanitarian Day, 19 August 2025,

<https://reliefweb.int/report/yemen/68-aid-organizations-yemen-call-solidarity-and-urgent-action-world-humanitarian-day-enar>

- **Link humanitarian aid with resilience and development:** Donor governments and policymakers must ensure that immediate relief is paired with efforts to strengthen livelihoods, services, and recovery systems, laying the groundwork for long-term development and breaking Yemen's cycle of recurring needs.
- **Protect civilians and civilian infrastructure:** Member states should call for all parties to respect international humanitarian law, refrain from attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure. Civilians are not a target.
- **Use diplomatic leverage to protect aid workers:** Member states and regional actors should press for the immediate release of detained aid workers and advocate for unhindered movement of humanitarian personnel and supplies.
- **Reinforce commitment to peace:** Member states should sustain diplomatic efforts to support the UN peace process and ensure Yemen is not forgotten as global and regional agendas compete for attention.

Yemen's people cannot endure further suffering. The time to act for Yemen is now. Urgent, coordinated action at UNGA 80 is essential to save lives and prevent a deeper humanitarian catastrophe.

Signed by:

Action Contre la Faim (ACF)  
 Action for Humanity International  
 Adaptin  
 ADRA  
 Alamal Women's and Sociocultural Foundation  
 Al-Huda Foundation for Development  
 Al Khair Women Association  
 AlMamoon Foundation for Development  
 Arab-European Center for Human Rights and International Law (Oslo)  
 Arman Social Development Foundation  
 Badeel Foundation for Development  
 Bipolar Development Association  
 CARE  
 Caritas Poland in Yemen  
 CIVIC  
 Concern Worldwide  
 Danish Refugee Council (DRC)  
 Development Medical Dreams Corporation  
 Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe  
 Dorcas  
 Empowerment Foundation for Sustainable Development  
 Enqath Foundation for Development EFD  
 FARHM Network for Development and Peace  
 Field Medical Foundation (FMF)  
 Foundation Alhayaa for Early Intervention for People with Special Needs  
 Geneva Call  
 Handicap International – Humanity & Inclusion

Heart of Nation for Sustainable Development  
Helpcode  
Humanitarian Aid and Development Organization (HAD)  
Humanitarian Work Library - Yemen  
International Medical Corps  
International Rescue Committee (IRC)  
INTERSOS  
Islamic Help UK  
Islamic Relief Worldwide  
Joud Al Ata Foundation Humanity Development (JAFHD)  
Light Foundation for Development  
Medglobal Yemen  
Mercy Corps  
Nama Development Foundation  
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)  
NPA  
OXFAM  
Polish Humanitarian Action  
Première Urgence Internationale (PUI)  
Rafd Al-amajad Foundation for Development  
Rawabi Radfan Foundation for Charity Development  
READ Foundation UK - Yemen (RFY)  
Relief International (RI)  
Saferworld  
Save the Children  
Secours Islamique France (SIF)  
Social Development - Hodeidah Girls Foundation  
Solidarités International  
Super Novae  
Triangle Generation Humanitaire  
Union of Social Charitable and Developmental Associations and Foundations  
War Child Alliance  
Wings of Peace Charitable Foundation for Development and Humanitarian Response  
Women's Development Association – Shabwa  
Yemen Media Guide for Development Center (YMGD)