

Dear *[Insert MP full name and title]*, *[If you're unsure how to address your MP, you can find their title and how to address them on the official Parliament website: <https://members.parliament.uk/>]*

[Make reference to a previous communication or some personal or friendly comment e.g. applauding your MP on some local or national action (if appropriate)]

[Explain why this issue matters to you, please edit your letter by adding one or more of the following points in your own words.]

I am writing you out of extreme concern for the horrific humanitarian situation in Yemen.

A UN report states that "by the end of 2021, Yemen's conflict will lead to 377,000 deaths – nearly 60 per cent of which are indirect and caused by issues associated with conflict, like lack of access to food, water, and healthcare. These deaths are overwhelmingly made up of young children who are especially vulnerable to disease and malnutrition."

"Yemen is heading toward the biggest famine in modern history", said the World Food Programme Director, David Beasley. 16 million people face crisis levels of hunger, including 5 million who are just one step away from famine.

Sir Mark Lowcock, former Head of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, told the Security Council "About 400,000 children under the age of five are severely malnourished across the country. These are the children with distended bellies, emaciated limbs and blank stares - starving to death." A Yemeni child under the age of five dies every nine minutes because of the conflict.

One million pregnant women are malnourished, and 120,000 women and girls are at risk of violence.

The UN, facing an unprecedented funding crisis, hoped to raise \$3.85bn (£2.76bn) from governments at a pledging conference in March 2021 to avert widespread famine; yet it only received \$1.7bn – less than half. World Food Programme Executive Director, David Beasley told Reuters that the first half of 2022 would be "brutal" for Yemen. He said "We run out (of money) in a few weeks, I don't see how we don't avoid, at this stage, a famine of biblical proportions...without a massive injection of additional dollars."

Britain pledged just £87m - 54% of last year's donation of £160m, and only 40% of the total funding the UK provided in 2018.

As a result of funding cuts, 75% of U.N. funded programs, from food to health care and nutrition, have shut their doors or reduced operations. The number of people the UN agencies are able to feed has dropped from 13 million to eight million.

Two million of Yemen's 4m internally displaced people live in Marib, many in refugee camps. It is being bombarded by the Houthis, who have engaged in a major military assault on the city. The Houthis have cut access for humanitarian aid and killed or injured 100s of civilians in missile attacks, including one on a petrol station causing a fireball killing twenty, including 4 children. By their own admission, 15,000 young men and boys, sent by the Houthis to the Marib frontlines, have been killed so far in some of the bloodiest battles of the war.

As my MP, I urge you to speak with both the Middle East Minister and the Foreign Secretary to urge them to take action on Yemen. Please ask them to:

- Reconsider their funding decision and restore funding to at least 2020 levels.

- Meet with our European and US allies, and also rich middle eastern states including the Saudis, and the UAE, to urge them to reverse their cuts in humanitarian funding.
- Help broker a ceasefire by vigorously engaging with all parties.
- Intensify diplomatic contact with the Houthis (including Ministerial engagement) to seek their agreement to the UN ceasefire plan already agreed by the Saudis.
- To urge the Middle East Minister to arrange for our Yemen Ambassador to follow the example of EU ambassadors and visit Sana'a for talks with the Houthi leadership.
- Demand that the Houthis stop laying land mines, indiscriminate shelling of civilian areas, and especially their intensive military advance towards Marib, which is putting in danger the lives of up to two million internally displaced people.
- Demand that the Saudis lift their blockade on fuel, which is having such a devastating impact on hospitals, water and sanitation plants, humanitarian aid delivery and is causing large increases in food prices.
- Demand that the Saudis stop bombing populated areas.

I'd really appreciate the opportunity to discuss this further at a meeting with you. I would like to book an appointment at your next virtual surgery or at a time which suits you to discuss this issue. Please could you contact me on *[insert email/phone details]* to let me know a time that we can speak.

Thank you. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours etc