

IF NOT IN SCHOOL



The paths children cross in Yemen



EDUCATION UNDER ATTACK IN YEMEN



Three years of brutal conflict in Yemen have put the education of **4.5 million** children on the line due to non-payment of salaries for nearly three quarters of public school teachers in the country. Many of the teachers have sought other work to survive or are only teaching a few hours.

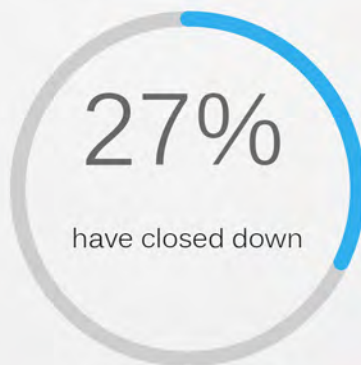
An entire generation of children now faces a very bleak future in a country where **2 million** were already out of school as a result of years of underdevelopment, poverty and intermittent conflicts.

"I have 10 years of experience as an Arabic teacher. Because we are not getting salaries anymore, I work as a builder after teaching. I believe there is no shame in doing any work."

Ahmed Al-Abdali, 39 yrs, teacher from Hajjah



Classrooms lie empty or in rubble. Many are being used for purposes other than learning. More than **2,500** schools are out of use

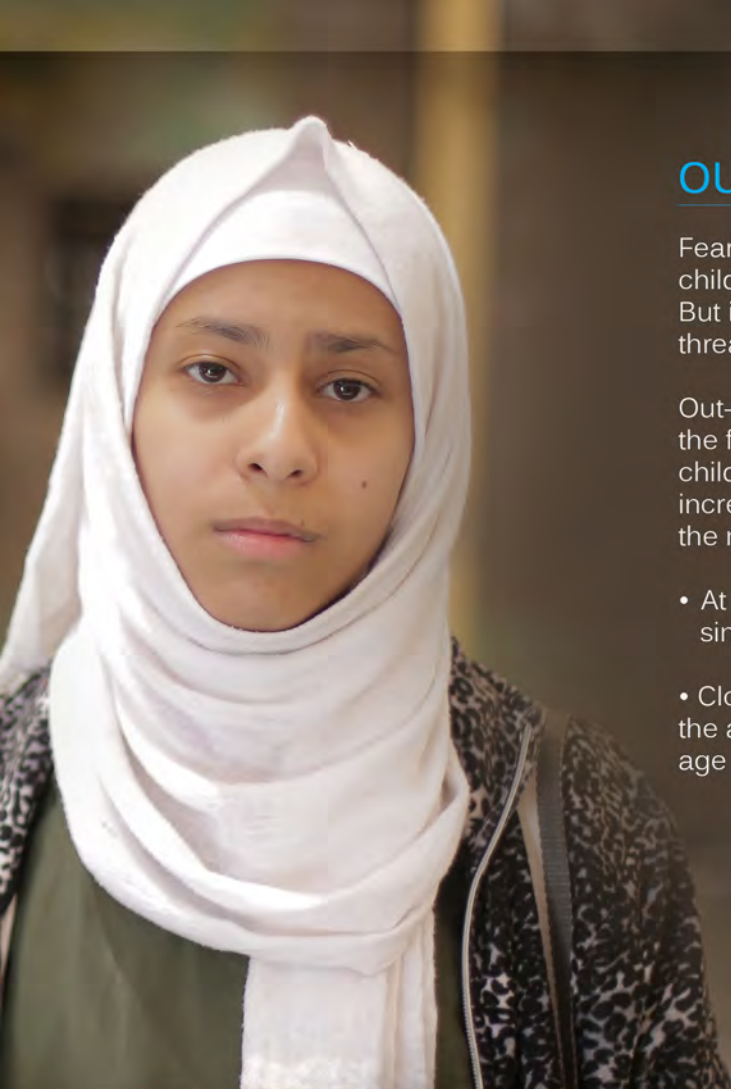


This has disrupted children's schooling and contributed to a **20 per cent** increase in the number of out-of-school children, from **1.6 million** before the war to **2 million** today.



"My hearing was severely impaired because of the noise of the bombing. I cannot hear well which has affected my studies. I dream of an end to the war in Yemen."

Noor Al-Ghorbani, 11 yrs, Grade 4 student, Sana'a



OUT OF SCHOOL AND VULNERABLE

Fearing for their children's safety, parents are keeping their children at home. But if not in school, children are also vulnerable to a host of threats.

Out-of-school children, are at a higher risk of recruitment into the fighting, early marriage and child labour. If not in school, children would become illiterate and unskilled parents and increasing the likelihood of passing on poverty the next generation.

- At least **2,419 boys** have been recruited into the fighting since the war escalated on **March 2015**.
- Close to three quarters of women had been married before the age of **18**, while **44.5 per cent** were married under the age of **15***.

"My classmate Eman was forced to drop out of school and to get married at the age of 14. I felt sorry for her and kept telling the teachers to convince her father but it was in vain."

Bassmah Al-Jubail, 16 yrs, Raymah

THE STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL CONTINUES

The escalating violence over the past **3 years** and decades of under development in the country is doubling the suffering of children and families.

Up to **78 per cent** of all Yemenis live in poverty.

The majority of the population – **80 per cent** – needs social protection support, including cash assistance.

Yemen now has the world's largest man-made food security crisis and the world's most devastating cholera outbreak.

- An estimated **1.8 million** children under the age of five and **1.1 million** pregnant and lactating women are acutely malnourished, representing a **128 per cent** increase since late **2014**.
- Over **1 million** people have been affected with suspected cholera or acute water diarrhoea and more than **2,200** have died since the outbreak in **April 2017**.
- Public water and sanitation systems are barely functional and **16 million** Yemenis, including close to **8.2 million** children, need humanitarian assistance to establish or maintain access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation.
- The number of people needing help to access healthcare has more than tripled – from **5 million** before the war to **16 million** today.



LOST OPPORTUNITIES AND POTENTIAL

"My brother Khaled dropped out of school at the beginning of the war at the age of 14 to go to the battlefield. My father worried about him and tried to convince him not to go. But it was useless."

Mohammed Abdu
14 yrs, Hajjah

As the world turns its back on children's education in Yemen, the lost opportunities and their potential are alarming.

- The poorest children are likely to miss school, becoming uneducated and illiterate. Poverty as a result is likely to spread even further..
- A one-year deficiency in school leads to an estimated loss of **7-10 per cent** of per capita income.
- Psychologically distressed and injured children cannot attend school and learn.
- Out-of-school children are prey for recruitment into the fighting.
- Out-of-school girls in Yemen are at greater risk of marriage. Child marriage leads to lower levels of education among girls and reduced earnings as adults.
- Poor health and nutrition stunt cognitive development and negatively impact school participation.
- Poor access to WASH contributes to low enrolment and school dropout, especially for girls.

Investments in water, sanitation and hygiene systems, especially in schools, have immediate benefits for children's health and education, especially girls education.

As well as helping lift households out of poverty permanently, education guards against them falling – or falling back – into poverty.

Safe learning environments, with social workers and community facilitators trained to identify psychosocial distress, can help children heal emotionally, which in turn assists in learning.

Educated mothers are more likely to know more about appropriate health and hygiene practices, and have more power in the home to make sure children's nutrition needs are met.

BREAKING

THE CYCLE OF DISADVANTAGE

Education is key to breaking the cycle of poverty, violence, hunger and disease in Yemen.

Education is one of the most significant ways to protect children from recruitment and harm during armed conflict.

Education is one of the most powerful ways to improve cognitive development, productivity, skills and future earnings of an individual.

Ensuring that girls stay in school is one of the most effective ways of averting child marriage and early birth.

Education empowers girls and young women by increasing their chances of better employment and staying healthy.



ADVOCACY ASKS

On behalf of Yemen's children, UNICEF appeals to the warring parties, those who have influence on them, government authorities and donors to:



Put an end to the war and all grave violations against children: Peace and recovery are an absolute must if children in Yemen are to resume their schooling and get the quality education they urgently need and are entitled to.



Pay teachers: Education authorities across Yemen should work together and find an immediate solution to provide salaries for all teachers and education personnel so that children can continue to learn.



Protect children's education unconditionally: All parties to the conflict and those with influence on them need to unconditionally commit to stopping attacks against schools to protect children's education across Yemen. Children and education staff must be kept out of harm's way and schools must be maintained as safe zones for learning.



Increase funding for education: The international community, donors and development partners should support incentives for teachers while searching for long-term solutions to the salary crisis in Yemen, and continue supporting the education system.



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#ChildrenUnderAttack
#YemenIgnored
#IfNotInSchool

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