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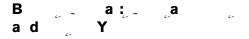
The war has had a unique impact on women and girls, exacerbating pre-existing vulnerabilities and inequalities

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The war has exacerbated the country's existing humanitarian crisis^{vi} and the dire situation of Yemen's population. Nearly 80 per cent of the population are now in need of lifesaving humanitarian assistance,^{vii} and an estimated 10.25 million people at risk of famine.^{viii}

Women and girls have been disproportionately affected by the war, first and foremost because of their gender. The conflict has aggravated women and girls' existing vulnerabilities and increased the health and protection risks they face daily.



Before the war, women and girls in Yemen already faced entrenched gender inequalities due to the deeply engrained patriarchal social norms and a highly conservative political and legal system. 3.T c bc pc c a d

Whilst all sides of the conflict bear responsibility for the destruction of infrastructure as a result of fighting, the use of airstrikes by the Saudi/Emirati-Led Coalition has been particularly devastating. Since the war began the Coalition has launched over 18,000 airstrikes, hitting civilian targets, including markets, schools and health facilities. In just 10 days, following the US call for a cession of hostilities on 31st October 2018, It be Yemen Data Project reported that of the 42 Coalition air raids across Yemen where a target could be identified, 62 per cent hit civilian targets.

However air strikes are not the only cause of Yemen's public service collapse. Restrictions on commercial imports – including fuel – have led to a contraction in the delivery of essential services including water provision, and pushed their costs beyond what people can afford.xi Nearly 20 million



Ab : Young girl being treated at an IRC-run diarrhoea treatment center in Al Dahle'e, Yemen. W S a //IRC

T_ a d _ i d a d c _ _ _ a _ b _ c a d c _ ca _ c . G c _ d a _ a , b Food insecurity and malnutrition have also reached staggering levels due to restrictions on imports, xxxiii inflation, xxxiii currency depreciation, and the impact of the war on local food production. Xxxiii Women and children are bearing the burden of malnutrition, with 1.8 million children and 1.1 million pregnant or lactating women being acutely malnourished. XXXIV The country's health system is struggling to cope, and this is likely to get worse as new data published in December 2018 by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) confirmed that women and children in Yemen are being starved to death as a result of the war. XXXIV

The conflict has also impacted on children's education. Schools have been destroyed and teachers who were not paid have left the education sector. UNICEF recently reported that the education system is on the brink of collapse.xxxiii More than 2 million children have lost access to schools.xxxiii The conflict has reversed two decades of progress on increasing girls' access to education, including by stopping the adoption of a law setting 18 as the minimum age for marriage and for girls to remain in school. As girls no longer go to school, and as a consequence of the war on livelihoods and families sliding deeper in poverty, parents are increasingly resorting to marrying off their daughters.xxxiix

4. T_a d c_k c a a

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Some groups of women are more vulnerable to violence, as a result of the intersection of gender with other factors including age, class, disability, geographic location, and refugee status.xiiv A recent internal assessment by IRC found that the most vulnerable women and girls in Yemen are adolescent girls (particularly those living in rural areas), marginalised women (for example those who are divorced

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In addition to being depleted, health services that are available are not adequately staffed or equipped to deal with the critical and urgent needs of women and girls affected by violence. Health workers are most often not trained to respond to cases of sexual violence, including providing emotional and psychological support, and medical supplies are insufficient. The lack of female health professionals and safe spaces for GBV survivors also act as a deterrent for women and girls accessing the few available services. An IRC internal assessment on GBV prevention and response in Yemen found that around 70 per cent of survivors felt it was safer to keep silent and not seek help for fear of experiencing stigmatisation or reprisal. The needs of particular groups, including adolescent girls, are also often not catered for.

Access to services is further limited by increased restrictions

Yet, despite States' international obligations to prevent and prohibit GBV, xii as well as global and donor-led initiatives, such as the Call to Action, rhetoric has still not turned into reality on the ground, including in Yemen.

The lack of consultation with, and participation of women's organisations and women and girls in the planning and response to the conflict is a key factor which compounds the lack of an adequate gender-sensitive response in Yemen. It also disregards the multiple and significant roles that women have been playing during the conflict, including as first responders and peacebuilding agents

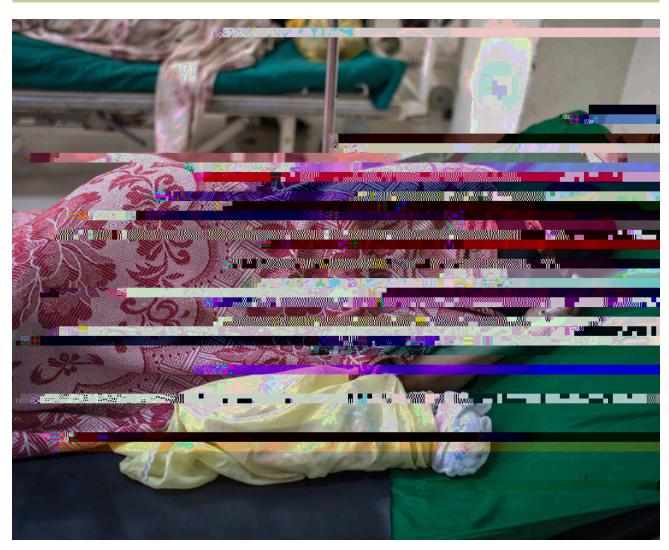
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- The UK, US and France should secure support for the full implementation of UNSCR 2451that codifies the ceasefire in Hodeidah, work to quickly pass a further technical resolution to mandate a full UN monitoring mission, and encourage warring parties to extend the ceasefire nationwide.
- The Houthis must also play their part in ending the violence and the slide into humanitarian catastrophe.
- Germany and the EU, through relations with Iran, should seek to encourage the Houthis to implement agreements reached in Sweden and build on this progress towards peace.
- Warring parties should ensure that all seaports and Sana'a airport are opened and fully operational for humanitarian and commercial traffic. Bureaucratic impediments placed on the delivery of humanitarian assistance by the Houthi authorities and Hadi Government must be addressed through the formalisation of (and adherence to) clear standardised procedures.
- Warring parties should commit to the payment of salaries of civil servants responsible for the delivery of essential services.



Ab : Abeer Abdul Koreem Nasir, 30, lies on a bed in IRC's maternity ward at Al Sadaqa Hospital after giving birth to a baby boy. Ke, e R a //RC

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