



Country Context

After more than 24 months of conflict in Yemen, **humanitarian needs persist on a massive scale**. According to the 2017 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), an estimated 18.8 million people are in need of some kind of assistance or protection in order to meet their basic needs, including 10.3 million who are in acute need. This represents an increase of almost 20 per cent since late 2014. An estimated 14 million people are currently food insecure, of whom seven million are severely food insecure. More than two million people remain displaced across 21 governorates and close to one million have sought to return to their homes with no real access to basic services or livelihoods.

The conflict has had a **devastating impact on the economy and social services**. The public budget deficit has expanded and foreign exchange reserves have fallen considerably, limiting the import of basic commodities, the maintenance of public service institutions and the payments of civil servant salaries. For the last five months, 1.25 million public employees and their families – one quarter of Yemen's population – have not received regular salaries. The decline of public service provision, notably in the health sector, is of particular concern. The humanitarian community is facing enormous pressure to substitute for faltering or absent public service institutions, which is beyond both its capacity and remit. The situation is also worsened by difficulties faced by the commercial sector in securing letters of credit to import goods, thereby impacting the level of food stocks in-country, including wheat.

Under the leadership of the Secretary-General, and his call to ensure a coordinated approach between humanitarian and development actors in the **four countries facing famine or at risk of famine** (South Sudan, Somalia, Yemen, and North-East Nigeria), the UN in Yemen is further stepping up the cooperation between humanitarian and development agencies, to strengthen collaboration, coordination and alignment and working towards common goals.

Examples of working towards Collective Outcomes

Early engagement

Efforts to work **towards collective outcomes – within the UN system, as well as with the World Bank** – grew during the political transition to Yemen. For example, in 2014, the UN and the World Bank agreed on the deployment of a WB governance advisor to the OSE to identify opportunities for confidence building measures and collaboration.

The first innovative joint Trust Fund to support the implementation of the National Dialogue Outcomes was also endorsed by UN and WB most senior leadership in 2014, in the context of the CEB.

In 2015-2016, the UN, the EU, the World Bank and the Islamic Development Bank (ISDB) also partnered to undertake a **preliminary time-bound Damage and Needs Assessment (DNA)** in the midst of the crisis in Yemen. The DNA exercise proved a useful platform to further build linkages at the technical level among these institutions, and a basis to build upon a broader strategic partnership.

Progression of Collective Outcomes as the crisis deepens

A consensus emerged among key partners in 2016 that Yemen is facing a long-term protracted political and developmental crisis and that there was a need to prepare a **joint response strategy identifying collective outcomes across the humanitarian, peace-building and development sectors**. Through a series of field-level consultations, partners agreed on the value of developing advocacy, common understanding and operational priorities in regard to a) safeguarding and strengthening the humanitarian response; b) institutional preservation and service delivery during ongoing conflict; c) immediate support to implementation of a political agreement once reached; d) economic development and recovery in the mid to long-term future.

A review of the focus of the UN Humanitarian Response Plan; the World Bank Country Engagement Note; the EU country strategy and the outcomes of the UN Strategic Assessment Mission **identified four common strategic outcomes across the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus**. These are also broadly aligned with the UNCT bridging framework.

They include:

- (1) equitable assistance;
- (2) local service delivery;
- (3) preservation of state institutions; and
- (4) preparation for economic recovery and reconstruction.

Identifying Collective Strategic Outcomes

Humanitarian	Development	Peace
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Equitable access to assistance for women, girls, boys, and men - Ensure that humanitarian action supports resilience and sustainable recovery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Build and preserve local service delivery capacity to support conflict-affected families and communities in this fluid situation - Prepare for post-conflict recovery and reconstruction, with due attention to state and institution building and laying the foundation for a more inclusive and resilient development framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The restoration and improved functioning of state institutions that deliver services equitably, impartially and to a standard commensurate with Yemeni people's legitimate expectations - Economic recovery and reconstruction, including vocational training and job creation opportunities for youth

Collective Strategic Outcomes
 Equitable assistance
 Local service delivery
 Preservation of institutions
 Prepare for economic recovery & reconstruction

The strong commitment to **preserve institutions for essential delivery** has worked as a **catalyst** for important operational progress towards this collective outcome. As a result, for the first, core IDA grants to preserve institutions and service delivery in conflict were allocated to Yemen through UN implementation, working in partnership with local institutions. These includes: UNDP US\$300 million Emergency Crisis Response Project; and UNICEF/WHO US\$200 million Emergency Health and Nutrition

Project. UNDP, UNICEF and WHO have also partnered to support the payment of performance-based incentives to health workers in key facilities to ensure such services are maintained.

Potential and existing institutional arrangements for Collective Outcome



The UN-WB-EU-ISDB partners have agreed on the importance to work across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus and develop joined-up response strategies through the **Yemen Humanitarian-Development-Peace Platform** that brings together data across the humanitarian-development-peace spectrum and contributes toward a common understanding of risks, needs, gaps, and opportunities for joint analysis, operations, and advocacy in support of common or shared outcomes. The work of the platform will be supported by a technical team composed of individuals from each organization that will work virtually. Regular management level meetings will set the strategic direction and provide oversight.

Challenges to a Collective Outcome Approach



A key challenge in achieving collective outcomes in a context such as Yemen is to get the Yemeni **actors aligned**. An emphasis should be placed on the importance of consensus over the need to coordinate and collaborate on issues that transcend the Humanitarian-Development-Political boundaries.

Solutions to transcend the humanitarian-development divide



Yemen's socio-economic, humanitarian and political challenges are closely intertwined, informing and reinforcing each other. Building on the Joint Declaration the partners are using the flexibility of a **pre-Recovery and Peace-Building Assessment (RPBA)** process to identify common outcomes and coordinate activities across Yemen's humanitarian, development and political spectrum. The YHDPP will help to operationalize the pre-RPBA process and build on already existing UN-WB cooperation.

The products of the YHDPP platform during this pre-RPBA period will inform and guide an eventual full RPBA once the political environment allows. The YHDPP will thus be a **catalyst for the future full assessment and recommendations** expressed therein. These recommendations will be able to recognize the Humanitarian-Development-Peace synergies demonstrated and facilitated by the YHDPP and guide the transition towards resilience, development and peace accordingly.