



Yemen Country Report: Children & Security

The Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative

Updated as of 31 January 2017

www.childsoldiers.org

info@childsoldiers.org



TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. Background	3
Map of Yemen	3
Children in Yemen – Struggle Within Conflict	4
II. Security Situation	5
1. Context	5
2. State, Non-State, Regional and International Actors	8
a) State Actors	8
b) Non-State Actors	9
c) Regional Actors	13
d) International Actors.....	14
III. CHILD PROTECTION CONCERNS	16
1. Recruitment and Use of Children.....	16
2. Trafficking and Child Labour	17
3. Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV)	18
4. Education.....	19
5. Access to Healthcare	20
Annex I: List of Abbreviations	22
ANNEX II: KEY FACTS	23
Yemen in a Snapshot	23
Relevant UN Security Council Resolutions	24
Yemeni Child Protection Legislation	24
ANNEX III: TIMELINE OF NOTABLE EVENTS	25
ANNEX IV: RECOMMENDED READING	29

I. Background

Map of Yemen¹



¹ Central Intelligence Agency, 'Yemen' available <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ym.html> accessed 18 January 2017.



Children in Yemen – Struggle Within Conflict

Children are among the most vulnerable in Yemen and have been disproportionately affected by the escalation of conflict since Houthi-led forces took over the capital Sana'a in September 2014. Since then, the situation has deteriorated and all six grave violations have been committed against children during armed conflict in Yemen: recruitment or use of children; killing or maiming of children; sexual violence against children; attacks against schools or hospitals; abduction of children; and denial of humanitarian access.²

In 2015, the impact of armed conflict on children worsened to a significant degree and continued in 2016. Heavy aerial bombardments and ground operations since the end of March 2015 have dramatically increased the number of child casualties in Yemen.³ The UN Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism verified 1,309 cases of child death as a result of the conflict between January 2015 and September 2016, in addition to 1,950 cases of child injury.⁴ In the first quarter of 2016, child deaths and injuries increased by 19 per cent compared to the last quarter of 2015. In 2015, the UN verified a six-fold increase in the number of children killed and maimed compared with 2014, totalling 1,953 child casualties.⁵ UNICEF estimated in 2015 that, on average, eight children were killed or maimed every day in Yemen as a direct result of the hostilities.⁶ The significant increase in child casualties was the result of coalition airstrikes, with the majority of child deaths and injuries (73 per cent) attributed to the coalition.⁷ Houthi-Saleh forces were responsible for 18 per cent of child deaths and 17 per cent of child injuries.⁸ Incidents of children and infants sustaining devastating

² United Nations Security Council, 'Children and Armed Conflict: report of the Secretary-General', UN Doc. S/2016/360 (20 April 2016) ('2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report'); United Nations Security Council, 'Letter dated 22 January 2016 from the Panel of Experts on Yemen established pursuant to Security Council resolution 2140 (2014) addressed to the President of the Security Council', UN Doc. S/2016/73 (26 January 2016) ('January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter'), paras. 153, 155. See also United Nations Human Rights Council, 'Annual report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict', UN Doc. A/HRC/31/19 (28 December 2015) ('December 2015 SRSG Report'); United Nations Security Council, 'Children and Armed Conflict: report of the Secretary-General', UN Doc. S/2015/409 (5 June 2015) ('2015 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report').

³ See 2015 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, paras. 5, 208; December 2015 SRSG Report, para. 3.

⁴ UNOCHA, '2017 Yemen Humanitarian Needs Overview (November 2016)', available https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Yemen/YEMEN%202017%20HNO_Final.pdf accessed 18 January 2017 ('UN HNO 2017'), p. 16.

⁵ 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 167.

⁶ UNICEF, 'Yemen conflict: Over a thousand child casualties so far' (19 August 2015), available www.unicef.org/media/media_82940.html accessed 18 January 2017; January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter, para. 154.

⁷ January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter, para. 154.

⁸ January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter, para. 154.



burns from aerial bombing have also been reported.⁹ Notably, coalition airstrikes continued through 2016 and into 2017, resulting in large civilian casualties.¹⁰

In Yemen, nearly all parties to the conflict are reported to have engaged in widespread child recruitment.¹¹ Children continue to be recruited and used by armed forces, pro-government popular committees and Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP).¹² Sexual violence against children has been verified but is underreported, with only one case verified by the UN against a child by a member of an armed group in 2015.¹³

More than two million people have been displaced, including children.¹⁴ An estimated 9.6 million children are in need of humanitarian assistance, 462,000 children are facing Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), and over two million children are out of school due to fighting and insecurity.¹⁵ Child rights violations have increased dramatically and children are facing significant psychological stress as a result.¹⁶ Humanitarian access has been restricted by all parties, with devastating impacts on children.

II. Security Situation

1. Context

Yemen has had a turbulent history of civil unrest. For decades, conflicts between traditional North Yemen and communist South Yemen persisted, until the two united as the Republic of Yemen in 1990.¹⁷ The

⁹ January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter, para. 155.

¹⁰ United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 'Press briefing notes on Yemen' (5 January 2017), available <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=16923&LangID=E> accessed 18 January 2018.

¹¹ See 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report; December 2015 SRSR Report, para. 3.

¹² 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 165.

¹³ 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 168.

¹⁴ See International Organisation for Migration and United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 'Yemen: Task Force on Population Movement | TFPM - 12th Report Executive Summary, January 2017' (10 January 2017), available <http://reliefweb.int/report/yemen/yemen-task-force-population-movement-tfpm-12th-report-executive-summary-january-2017> accessed 18 January 2017.

¹⁵ UNICEF, 'HAC 2016: Yemen' (9 January 2017), available <http://www.unicef.org/appeals/yemen.html> accessed 18 January 2017 ('HAC 2016: Yemen'), pp. 3, 11; UNICEF, 'Yemen Situation Report' (November 2016), available https://www.unicef.org/appeals/files/UNICEF_Yemen_Humanitarian_Situation_Report__Nov_2016.pdf accessed 18 January 2017 ('UNICEF Situation Report Yemen').

¹⁶ January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter, para. 158.

¹⁷ BBC, 'Yemen country profile' (17 January 2016), available <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-14704852> accessed 18 January 2017 ('BBC: Yemen Profile').



tensions between the two regions persisted and led to a short civil war in 1994, which ended in the defeat of the southern secessionists.¹⁸ In 2004, the Houthis, a Zaidi Shia-led movement under the leadership of Hussein Badr al-Din al-Houthi, led an insurgency against the government and military, which resulted in the death of hundreds.¹⁹ The recurring conflicts between the Houthis and the Yemeni army in the north caused the displacement of approximately a quarter of a million people.²⁰ In 2010, after a number of failed attempts, a ceasefire was signed, though peace in the country did not last long.

A Yemeni revolution inspired by the Arab Spring protests began in 2011, initially protesting the economic inequality in the nation, as well as corruption within the government. The movement quickly escalated into demands for the resignation of the President, Ali Abdullah Saleh. The revolution saw mass defections from the military, and resulted in an announcement by Saleh that he would not run in the 2013 elections, nor pass the power to his son. Despite this, protests escalated in violence. In November 2011, in a deal brokered by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), temporary power was signed over to then Vice President Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, who was elected as president the following year. The political climate in Yemen, however, never stabilised, and in September 2014, Houthis took control of the capital of Sana'a, establishing a presidential council to replace President Hadi. In March 2015, Saleh loyalists within the Yemeni military launched a series of attacks on Aden in an attempt to prevent it from being declared a temporary capital of Yemen.²¹ Since then, there has been ongoing conflict between multiple groups fighting for control of the country. Loyalist forces (*i.e.* pro-Government popular committees) and Saudi Arabia in support of President Hadi are still active in fighting the Houthis, whose claim of control of Yemen has not been recognised by the GCC, UN, or the United States, among others.

Conflict escalated in March 2015 with the formation of the Saudi-led coalition of Gulf Arab States and resulting airstrikes in Yemen, which have continued into 2017. Since the Saudi-led coalition began its military campaign against Houthi forces in Yemen on March 26, 2015, at least 3,799 civilians have been killed and 6,711 have been injured. Peace talks were attempted and failed numerous times throughout

¹⁸ BBC: Yemen Profile.

¹⁹ BBC: Yemen Profile.

²⁰ United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 'UNHCR Global Report 2009: Middle East and North Africa' (2009), p. 95.

²¹ January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter, para. 26.



2015.²² New peace talks commenced in April 2016 in Kuwait between the Government of Yemen under President Hadi and the Houthis, but in August they were concluded without an agreement.²³ Fighting intensified as a result of the most recent failed peace negotiations.²⁴ There have been numerous clashes between the Saleh-loyalists, aligned with the Houthis, and Hadi-loyalists, backed by a Saudi Arabia-led coalition, as well as other resistance groups, such as AQAP and Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). These clashes have involved the use of banned cluster munitions and the indiscriminate bombing of civilian communities.²⁵ The presence of AQAP and ISIL in the region has also contributed to the increasing insecurity in Yemen.²⁶

The UN and NGOs have documented numerous human rights violations, including crimes against humanity and war crimes, committed by all groups involved, including non-state and international actors.²⁷ These violations range from mass civilian deaths resulting from the indiscriminate use of airstrikes and cluster munitions to arbitrary detention of politicians and aid workers, torture, abductions, enforced or involuntary disappearances, the prevention of humanitarian aid, and the continued recruitment and use of children.²⁸ As of October 2016, 4,125 people have been killed in the conflict, and another 7,207 wounded.²⁹

Yemen is currently facing a major humanitarian crisis affecting 20 out of the 22 governorates.³⁰ Civilian infrastructure and the collapse of public services have occurred as a result of ground fighting and airstrikes.³¹

²² Security Council Report, 'Chronology of Events: Yemen' (1 November 2016), available <http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/chronology/yemen.php> accessed 18 January 2017 ('SCR Chronology of Events').

²³ See 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 389; SCR Chronology of Events.

²⁴ See 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 675.

²⁵ 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 675.

²⁶ January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter, paras. 54-59.

²⁷ January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter, paras. 124, 151.

²⁸ January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter, paras. 123-163; United Nations General Assembly Res 30/18, 'Technical assistance and capacity-building for Yemen in the field of human rights', UN Doc. A/HRC/RES/30/18 (2 October 2015), paras. 2-4; Human Rights Watch, 'Yemen: 3 Months Since Houthis Disappear Protesters' (16 January 2016), available <https://www.hrw.org/news/2016/01/16/yemen-3-months-houthis-disappear-protesters> accessed 18 January 2017; United Nations Security Council, 'The situation in the Middle East' UN Doc. S/PV.7797 (31 October 2016) ('UNSC Situation in Middle East').

²⁹ United Nations, 'Latest horrific incident in Yemen demands 'a full inquiry,' Ban says, urging probe into funeral bombing' (10 October 2016), available <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=55255#.WIZXYVwWfR4> accessed 18 January 2017. See also 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 675.

³⁰ See generally UN HNO 2017; HAC 2016: Yemen.

³¹ January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter, para. 126.



In July 2015, the UN declared the situation in Yemen a level-3 crisis.³² More than 18.8 million people (69 per cent of the population), including 9.6 million children, require some form of humanitarian assistance in 2017.³³ In January 2017, the UN warned that the serious lack of food could lead to famine in 2017.³⁴ According to the UN OCHA, as of November 2016, there were more than 2.2 million internally displaced people in Yemen.³⁵ Environmental shocks, such as floods in late 2016, have also exacerbated the crisis.³⁶

2. State, Non-State, Regional and International Actors

a) State Actors

Government Forces

The Yemeni military is composed of land forces, naval and coastal defence forces (including marines), air and air defence forces, border guards, and strategic reserve forces.³⁷ Since 2015, the Yemeni armed forces has been divided in loyalty between former President Saleh, now in an alliance with the Houthis, and current President Hadi. Hadi, still internationally regarded as the legitimate leader of Yemen, lost control of the capital city of Sana'a in September 2014 to the Houthis.

In 2014, the government signed a UN action plan to end the use of children, which has not been implemented in light of the escalation in violence.³⁸ Yemeni forces are reportedly led by a controversial military commander accused of using children.³⁹

³² Inter-Agency Standing Committee, 'Final Summary and Action Points, ad hoc IASC Principals meeting on Yemen' (1 July 2015), available <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/principals/documents-public/summary-record-ad-hoc-iasc-principals-meeting-yemen-1-july-2015> accessed 18 January 2017.

³³ UN HNO 2017.

³⁴ See e.g. UN News, 'Urging 'bold decisions' to end Yemen conflict, UN envoy says viable peace plan within reach' (26 January 2017), available <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=56051#.WJERXhiZPdQ> accessed 31 January 2017.

³⁵ UN HNO 2017.

³⁶ See for e.g. UNOCHA, 'Yemen: Flash Flooding - Flash Update 3 | 22 April 2016' (22 April 2016), available http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Flash%20Update%20III%20-%20Yemen%20flooding_22April.pdf accessed 18 January 2017.

³⁷ CIA World Factbook, 'Yemen' available <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ym.html> accessed 18 January 2017.

³⁸ 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 679; 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 175.

³⁹ 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 174.



b) Non-State Actors

Houthi and Houthi-Saleh Forces

The Houthis are an armed group closely affiliated with the political organisation known as Ansar Allah (“Partisans of God”).⁴⁰ The Houthis were formed by and named after the Houthi family, and have gained extensive support from local tribes and families in the central highlands.⁴¹ They have formed numerous alliances with local communities and provide basic training in return for a quota of fighters, allowing them to gain widespread control of areas without deploying their own veteran fighters.⁴² Amidst the political instability in late 2014, the Houthis took control of the capital city of Sana’a and subsequently numerous major political institutions, including the presidential palace.⁴³ Shortly after, President Hadi and his Cabinet were forced to resign. On 6 February 2015, Ansar Allah established a new governmental body, the Revolutionary Committee, in charge of all state affairs and of all procedures and measures to protect state sovereignty and to ensure its security and stability to protect people’s rights and freedoms.⁴⁴ Ansar Allah appointed Mohammed Ali Al-Houthi to lead this committee.⁴⁵

During former President Saleh’s 33-year rule of Yemen, several important players in military forces were either members of his family or close allies.⁴⁶ When President Hadi came to power in 2012, there were still many people who were loyal to Saleh, either in direct position of authority or the ones who maintained a level of informal control in the country.⁴⁷ Saleh also has had extensive links to many of the northern tribes who have been providing soldiers.⁴⁸ In 2015, it became apparent that Saleh had begun using his influence to aid the Houthis. The integration of Saleh’s network and the Houthis has led to a “new hybrid armed group”, known as the Houthi-Saleh forces.⁴⁹

⁴⁰ January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter, para. 20.

⁴¹ January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter, para. 42.

⁴² January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter, para. 43.

⁴³ January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter, paras. 20-21.

⁴⁴ January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter, para. 22.

⁴⁵ January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter, para. 23.

⁴⁶ January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter, paras. 44-46.

⁴⁷ January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter, paras. 45-46.

⁴⁸ January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter, para. 46.

⁴⁹ January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter, para. 47.



The Houthi-Saleh network is skilled in guerrilla warfare, and is responsible for the vast majority of children in the conflict, who make up nearly a third of fighters within armed groups in Yemen.⁵⁰ They are now supported by Popular Committees, factions of the network that are heavily involved in the conflict.⁵¹ In addition to the recruitment and use of children, the Houthi-Saleh forces have also been responsible for abductions, enforced and involuntary disappearances, and indiscriminate attacks on civilian targets and humanitarian facilities and organisations.⁵² A recent UN report revealed that 20 per cent of child casualties in 2015 (142 deaths and 247 injuries) could be attributed to the Houthi-Saleh forces.⁵³ Houthi and allied forces also reportedly laid banned antipersonnel landmines, mistreated detainees, and launched indiscriminate rockets into populated areas in Yemen and southern Saudi Arabia, killing civilians.⁵⁴

In April 2016, the UN Security Council condemned the military escalation by the Houthis in Yemen, including their failure to withdraw forces from government institutions, and expressed concern for President Saleh's support of Houthi actions that continue to undermine the peace, security, and stability of Yemen.⁵⁵

CASE STUDY – Houthi-Saleh recruitment of children⁵⁶

Maria told the story of how her son had been subjected to recruitment by the Houthi forces. The soldiers would offer children and young adults food to lure them out of their homes, and supply them with leaflets and tracts that paint the Houthi movement as “good” and other actors in the conflict as “bad”. The children were then given guns to carry around, as well as keys on necklaces to wear. The soldiers told them that the keys were to the gates of paradise, and they did not need to fear death while they wore them in battle.

Resistance Forces

There are a number of localised resistance groups active in the current conflict. Some of the groups are backed by the Saudi Arabia-led coalition, though they appear to have different political and social motivations depending on where they are based.⁵⁷ While these groups are allied against a common opponent,

⁵⁰ January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter, annex 59.

⁵¹ United Nations General Assembly, ‘Situation of human rights in Yemen: Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights’, UN Doc. A/HRC/33/38 (4 August 2016) (‘Situation of Human Rights in Yemen’), para. 11.

⁵² January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter, annex 58.

⁵³ 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 6.

⁵⁴ 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, pp. 675-676.

⁵⁵ United Nations Security Council, ‘Resolution 2216 (2015)’, UN Doc. S/RES/2216 (14 April 2015).

⁵⁶ This story has been adapted from a story originally found in January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter, annex 59.

⁵⁷ January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter, para. 50.



the Houthi-Saleh forces, their activities have shown a lack of organisation among the groups due to their differing agendas.⁵⁸

The coalition-backed resistance forces began as neighbourhood militias, comprised of civilian volunteers and some former military officers from both the north and south.⁵⁹ The UN and international community have documented a number of serious human rights violations at the hands of resistance forces, including extrajudicial executions, torture, arbitrary arrests and detention, and child recruitment.⁶⁰ There also appears to be targeted recruitment of migrant, internally displaced, and trafficked people.⁶¹ In addition to these violations, there have also been reports of resistance fighters attacking civilian communities, shelling residential areas, schools, and hospitals.⁶² The supply of resistance arms can be traced directly to the Saudi Arabia-led coalition, with lack of accountability measures from the latter.⁶³

Currently active in the resistance in Yemen are the Salafist and Hiraki groups. Salafist groups are part of an originally quietest and apolitical movement that has become increasingly radicalised in response to the Houthi-Saleh attacks on civilian areas.⁶⁴ They have also been supplied with arms and weapons by the coalition, and operate as “Sunni vigilantes” resisting the Houthi-Saleh’s Shia movement.⁶⁵ Militias affiliated with the Hirak Southern Movement have a secessionist agenda and are prominent among the local resistance in Aden, fighting alongside militias aligned with the Islah party, Salafist militias and AQAP.⁶⁶

Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula

Al-Qaeda, though active in Yemen since the early 1990s, merged with the Saudi-Arabia branch in 2009, to form Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP). Under its umbrella is a group known as Ansar al-Sharia.⁶⁷ In 2011 and 2012, Ansar al-Sharia declared temporary Islamic emirates in Abyan and Shabwah governorates

⁵⁸ January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter, para. 50.

⁵⁹ January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter, para. 51.

⁶⁰ January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter, paras. 150, 159.

⁶¹ January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter, para. 136.

⁶² Amnesty International, ‘Amnesty International Report 2015/2016: The State of the World’s Human Rights’ (2016), p. 402.

⁶³ January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter, para. 85.

⁶⁴ January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter, para. 52.

⁶⁵ January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter, para. 53.

⁶⁶ January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter, para. 51.

⁶⁷ January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter, para. 54.



before being dispersed by government forces. In December 2015, the group also re-established its presence in two towns in Abyan.⁶⁸

AQAP has been active in fighting against the Houthi-Saleh forces, claiming to have launched over 200 attacks throughout Yemen between June and November 2015, including suicide bombings, grenade attacks, ambushes, raids, mortar fire, and targeted assassinations, and direct confrontations with Houthi-Saleh forces.⁶⁹ Since 2015, AQAPs has been present in Mukalla, a south-eastern Yemeni port. It has seized the headquarters of the second regional military command and continues to expand its influence along the coastline and in the hinterland.⁷⁰ There is continued concern for the increasing number of, and growing scale of attacks by, AQAP in Yemen.⁷¹ Reports in early 2016 indicated that in some battles, AQAP and the coalition have found themselves fighting alongside each other against the Houthis, illustrating the complex relationships between all groups involved.⁷²

Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)

ISIL became active in Yemen in 2014 when Yemeni groups began pledging allegiance to its leader, Al-Baghdadi.⁷³ Many of these groups, including Ansar al-Sharia, were formerly loyal to Al-Zawahiri, the leader of Al-Qaeda, but began fighting on behalf of ISIL instead.⁷⁴ ISIL is known internationally for their extreme violence, including sexualised violence against women, as well as the recruitment, abuse, and use of children.⁷⁵ Since early 2015, ISIL has claimed responsibility for over 20 attacks in Yemen, primarily through the use of bombs.⁷⁶ Though ISIL is not as organisationally strong as AQAP in Yemen, it has contributed significantly to the crisis, and its influence is expected to continue to grow as ISIL and AQAP's rivalry

⁶⁸ January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter, para. 60.

⁶⁹ January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter, para. 58.

⁷⁰ January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter, para. 59.

⁷¹ United Nations Security Council, 'Resolution 2216 (2015)', UN Doc. S/RES/2216 (14 April 2015).

⁷² See e.g. BBC, 'Yemen conflict: Al-Qaeda seen at coalition battle for Taiz' (22 February 2016), available <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-35630194> accessed 18 January 2017; Reuters, 'How Saudi Arabia's war in Yemen has made al Qade stronger – and richer' (8 April 2016), available <http://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/yemen-aqap/> accessed 18 January 2017.

⁷³ January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter, para. 55.

⁷⁴ United Nations General Assembly, 'Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, Ben Emmerson', UN Doc. A/HRC/29/51 (16 June 2015), para. 15, fn. 7; January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter, para. 56.

⁷⁵ United Nations General Assembly, 'Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, Ben Emmerson' (16 June 2015), UN Doc. A/HRC/29/51, paras. 27-28.

⁷⁶ January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter, para. 57.



continues.⁷⁷ For example, in December 2016, ISIL claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing, killing at least 48 Yemeni soldiers at a military base in the southern port city of Aden.⁷⁸ This followed a bombing in August 2016, during which a suicide car bomb attack on an army training camp in Aden killed at least 54 people. ISIL also claimed responsibility for this attack.⁷⁹

c) Regional Actors

Coalition led by Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia intervened in Yemen in March 2015 in support of the Yemeni government against the Houthi-Saleh rebels in control of Sana'a, forming a military coalition.⁸⁰ This coalition has been supported by the United States in addition to other neighbouring states.⁸¹ The coalition's use of airstrikes, however, has been a cause of international concern.⁸² Reports indicate that there have been hundreds of indiscriminate airstrikes on civilian targets, including internally displaced people and refugees, since the coalition first joined the fight, which is considered a violation of international humanitarian law.⁸³ As of 10 October 2016, at least 4,125 civilians had been killed and 7,207 wounded since the start of the campaign.⁸⁴ To give one example, coalition member Bahrain continued to launch air strikes in Yemen throughout 2016, causing hundreds of civilian deaths.⁸⁵ In addition, the coalition was further responsible for 60 per cent of the 785 children killed

⁷⁷ January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter, para. 58; United Nations Security Council, 'Resolution 2266 (2016)' UN Doc. S/RES/2266 (24 February 2016).

⁷⁸ Al Jazeera, 'ISIL claims suicide blast in Aden' (11 December 2016), available <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/12/isil-claims-suicide-blast-yemen-aden-161210174422544.html> accessed 18 January 2017.

⁷⁹ Al Jazeera, 'Scores killed in ISIL-claimed suicide bombing in Yemen' (29 August 2016), available <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/08/deadly-suicide-bombing-targets-yemen-army-camp-160829064018700.html> accessed on 18 January 2017.

⁸⁰ See January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter, para. 27; 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 510.

⁸¹ United Nations Security Council, 'Letter dated 16 June 2015 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities addressed to the President of the Security Council' (16 June 2015), UN Doc. S/2015/441, para. 27; Human Rights Watch, 'What Military Target Was in My Brother's House?' (26 November 2015), available https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/report_pdf/yemen1115_4up.pdf accessed 18 January 2017 ('HRW What Military Target').

⁸² See generally. See also Human Rights Watch, 'What Military Target Was in My Brother's House?' (26 November 2015), available https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/report_pdf/yemen1115_4up.pdf accessed 18 January 2017.

⁸³ Human Rights Watch, 'Targeting Saada' (30 June 2015), available <https://www.hrw.org/report/2015/06/30/targeting-saada/unlawful-coalition-airstrikes-saada-city-yemen> accessed 18 January 2017.

⁸⁴ HRW What Military Target.

⁸⁵ 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 111.



and nearly half of the 101 attacks on school and hospitals.⁸⁶ In 2015, the UN attributed also 60 per cent of child casualties (510 deaths and 667 injuries) to the Saudi-led coalition.⁸⁷ While Saudi Arabia was initially added to the UN Secretary-General's list for attacking hospitals and schools and killing and maiming children, it was removed from the list a few days later after a massive diplomatic campaign and threats to cut humanitarian funding.⁸⁸ Human Rights Watch has, however, documented 58 cases of alleged unlawful coalition airstrikes since the start of the campaign, which have killed nearly 800 civilians and hit homes, markets, hospitals, schools, civilian businesses, and mosques.⁸⁹ It has further documented the use of internationally banned cluster munitions, which have killed and wounded dozens in populated areas.⁹⁰

In addition, there has also been evidence of coalition obstruction of humanitarian assistance on the ground, due to a coalition enforced aerial and naval blockade.⁹¹ The UN Security Council has also expressed concerns regarding the coalition's dissemination of arms and weapons to resistance groups.⁹²

d) International Actors

United States

The United States has publicly denounced the actions of the Houthis against President Hadi's government but has only offered "muted criticism of Saudi human rights violations".⁹³ In October 2016, the United States launched its first strike on Houthi-controlled territory in Yemen in retaliation for days of attacks on a navy warship.⁹⁴ The US has also been a significant contributor to the Saudi Arabia-led military campaign through logistical and intelligence support.⁹⁵ Shortly after the coalition was formed, they deployed military

⁸⁶ 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 679.

⁸⁷ 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 6.

⁸⁸ 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 17.

⁸⁹ 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 675.

⁹⁰ 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 676.

⁹¹ 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 678; January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter, annex 60.

⁹² January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter, para. 84.

⁹³ See White House Press Office, 'Statement by NSC Spokesperson Bernadette Meehan on the Situation in Yemen' (25 March 2015), available <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/03/25/statement-nsc-spokesperson-bernadette-meehan-situation-yemen> accessed 18 January 2017 ('2015 March US Press Statement'); 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 517.

⁹⁴ See United Nations Security Council, 'Letter dated 15 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council', UN Doc. S/2016/869 (17 October 2016). See also The Guardian, 'US enters Yemen war, bombing Houthis who launched missiles at navy ship' (13 October 2016), available <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/13/us-enters-yemen-war-bombing-houthis-who-launched-missiles-at-navy-ship> accessed 18 January 2017.

⁹⁵ 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 517; 2015 March US Press Statement.



personnel to Saudi Arabia as advisors to the coalition.⁹⁶ Human Rights Watch has identified the United States as a party to the conflict.⁹⁷ In December 2016, the United States announced that they were going to begin limiting their support to the Saudi-led coalition, due to concerns regarding high levels of civilian casualties.⁹⁸ Nonetheless, in January 2017, the US forces carried out a raid against a suspected senior AQAP member.⁹⁹

The ongoing fight against Al-Qaeda has also played a role in their involvement in Yemen.¹⁰⁰ As of November 2016, the US reported that it had conducted 28 drone strikes in Yemen in 2016, killing dozens of people described as AQAP operatives.¹⁰¹ The US continued to carry out targeted killings through the use of aerial drones in 2016.¹⁰²

United Kingdom and EU States

The United Kingdom has also supported the coalition and President Hadi through the provision of arms and logistical assistance, despite international condemnation of the coalition's actions.¹⁰³ Amnesty International, in particular, has drawn attention to the United Kingdom's breach of international and EU laws as a result of its support for the Saudi Arabia-led military operation in Yemen.¹⁰⁴ They have also pointed to the UK's supply of imprecise bombs as directly linked to the coalition's violation of international humanitarian laws.¹⁰⁵ European states, including France and Germany, continue to sell weapons to Saudi Arabia for use in the conflict in Yemen.¹⁰⁶

⁹⁶ HRW What Military Target.

⁹⁷ HRW What Military Target.

⁹⁸ Al Jazeera, 'US limits support to Arab coalition's Yemen campaign' (13 December 2016), available <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/12/limits-military-support-yemen-campaign-161213170622915.html> accessed 18 January 2017.

⁹⁹ BBC, 'US raid on al-Qaeda in Yemen: What we know so far' (31 January 2017), available <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-38808631> accessed 31 January 2017.

¹⁰⁰ 2015 March US Press Statement.

¹⁰¹ 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 679; See Human Rights Watch, 'Yemen: No Accountability for War Crimes' (12 January 2017), available <https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/01/12/yemen-no-accountability-war-crimes> accessed 18 January 2017.

¹⁰² 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 647.

¹⁰³ HRW What Military Target.

¹⁰⁴ Amnesty International, 'UK Government breaking the law supplying arms to Saudi Arabia, say leading lawyers' (17 December 2015), available <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2015/12/uk-government-breaking-the-law-supplying-arms-to-saudi-arabia/> accessed 18 January 2017.

¹⁰⁵ Amnesty International, 'Amnesty International Report 2015/2016: The State of the World's Human Rights' (2016), p. 403.

¹⁰⁶ See Amnesty International, 'States must stop selling weapons to Saudi Arabia for use in Yemen conflict' (26 February 2016), available <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2016/02/states-must-stop-selling-weapons-to-saudi-arabia-amid-yemen-conflict/> accessed 18 January 2017.



III. CHILD PROTECTION CONCERNS

1. Recruitment and Use of Children

The use of children by all parties to the conflict is endemic. Nearly one third of combatants in Yemen are under 18 years of age.¹⁰⁷ There has been a reported increase in recruitment and use of children by all parties to the conflict ever since the escalation in 2015.¹⁰⁸ There was a fivefold increase in child recruitment in 2015 compared to 2014,¹⁰⁹ with four times as many children recruited in the six-month period from March to September 2015 than in the whole of 2014. In 2015, the UN verified 762 cases of recruitment of children (all boys) and noted a shift from largely voluntary enlistment towards forced or involuntary recruitment through coercion, including through the provision of misleading information or incentives.¹¹⁰ Houthi-Saleh forces are allegedly responsible for the vast majority of child recruitment (72 per cent), though children continue to be recruited by resistance fighters, pro-government popular committees, and AQAP.¹¹¹ The exact number of children affiliated with the Government of Yemen and those units affiliated with Saleh is unknown. Children are used to man checkpoints, act as human shields or suicide bombers. It is reported that checkpoints operated by both Houthi militias and government forces are often manned by armed boys who appear to be as young as ten years old.¹¹²

Yemen's security, political, and economic crisis, as well as cultural acceptance of 'child soldiering', weak law enforcement mechanisms are among the contributing factors for recruitment.¹¹³ Child recruitment by armed groups in Yemen has been directly linked to food scarcity and economic insecurity.¹¹⁴ Orphans are reportedly particularly vulnerable and families have been known to receive financial incentives for their children's involvement.¹¹⁵ Despite Yemen's legislation requiring a minimum age for joining the armed

¹⁰⁷ 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 679. January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter, para. 159.

¹⁰⁸ United States Department of State, '2016 Trafficking in Persons Report' (June 2016) ('2016 TIP Report'), p. 409.

¹⁰⁹ 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 6. See also December 2015 SRSG Report, para. 3.

¹¹⁰ 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 165.

¹¹¹ January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter, para. 159; 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 165; 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 679.

¹¹² 2016 TIP Report, p. 407.

¹¹³ 2016 TIP Report, p. 409.

¹¹⁴ January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter, para. 159.

¹¹⁵ January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter, para. 159.



forces, and its agreement to join an action plan with the UN in May 2014 to end the recruitment and use of children, there has been little progress due to the subsequent escalation of conflict.¹¹⁶

Children in Yemen are also detained for their association with armed groups. For instance, in 2015, popular committees detained children recruited by Houthi forces.¹¹⁷

2. Trafficking and Child Labour

Yemen is a country of origin and, to a lesser extent, transit and destination for men, women, and children subjected to forced labour, and women and children subjected to sex trafficking.¹¹⁸ In 2016, it was for the first time classified as a special case by the US Department of State in light of the difficulties in obtaining information on human trafficking since March 2015 as a result of intensified conflict.¹¹⁹ The deteriorating security situation, weakened rule of law, and deepening poverty have resulted in an increase in trafficking activities in Yemen.¹²⁰

Estimates indicate that there are approximately 1.7 million child labourers under the age of 14 in Yemen, some of whom are subjected to forced labor.¹²¹ Yemeni children are also subjected to sex trafficking within Yemen and in Saudi Arabia – a problem that has only increased over the past several years.¹²² Girls as young as 15 years old are exploited for commercial sex in hotels and clubs in Yemen and also in Saudi Arabia.¹²³ Girls, some as young as 10 years old, have also been forced into “temporary marriages” for the purpose of sexual exploitation.¹²⁴ Chattel slavery and other forms of selling and inheriting of men, women, and children as slaves, have been reported.¹²⁵ Yemeni children, mostly boys, are also subjected to forced labor as beggars and street vendors, and forced into prostitution in Saudi Arabia, while others are forced to smuggle drugs there.¹²⁶

¹¹⁶ Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, ‘Children, Not Soldiers: Yemen Signs Action Plan to End Recruitment and Use of Children by Armed Forces’ (14 May 2014), available <https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/yemen-signs-action-plan/> accessed 18 January 2017; 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 175. See also 2016 TIP Report, p. 409.

¹¹⁷ 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 166.

¹¹⁸ 2016 TIP Report, p. 407.

¹¹⁹ 2016 TIP Report, p. 409.

¹²⁰ 2015 TIP Report, p. 364.

¹²¹ 2016 TIP Report, p. 407.

¹²² 2016 TIP Report, p. 407.

¹²³ 2015 TIP Report, p. 365.

¹²⁴ 2016 TIP Report, p. 407.

¹²⁵ 2015 TIP Report, p. 365.

¹²⁶ 2015 TIP Report, p. 295.



The spillover from the Syrian crisis has also resulted in thousands of refugees in Yemen who are at risk of being subjected to human trafficking.¹²⁷ An estimated 12,000 Syrian refugees were in Yemen at the end of 2015.¹²⁸ Inside Yemen, Syrian women and children begging in the streets are highly vulnerable to forced labour and sex trafficking.¹²⁹

Traffickers based in Yemen are also reported to smuggle women and children from Yemen and all over the horn of Africa across the Yemeni-border, who are later sold into prostitution or domestic servitude.¹³⁰

3. Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV)

The escalation of armed conflict in Yemen has had an impact on displaced women and children who face increased vulnerability to sexual and gender-based violence.¹³¹ Efforts to monitor and verify SGBV have been challenging in light of the security situation. Yemeni women and girls face severe discrimination and the lack of legal protection leaves them exposed to domestic and sexual violence.¹³²

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has recorded allegations of sexual violence, including rape. In July 2015, doctors that were interviewed stated that in one reported incident a ten year-old girl who had been displaced to Bani Seyah District had been admitted to hospital for injuries sustained after being raped while going to the local grocery store.¹³³ In other cases, women have reported being subjected to various forms of ill treatment. Some have been held incommunicado in prison.¹³⁴ Reports also indicate that young men and child combatants of all local fighting groups in Aden have been subject to rape upon capture, and that sexual violence is likely to be more prevalent than reported.¹³⁵

¹²⁷ 2015 TIP Report, p. 365.

¹²⁸ 2016 TIP Report, p. 409.

¹²⁹ 2016 TIP Report, p. 325.

¹³⁰ 2015 TIP Report, pp. 143, 370.

¹³¹ See United Nations Security Council, 'Report of the Secretary-General: conflict-related sexual violence', UN Doc. S/2015/203 (23 March 2015), para. 64.

¹³² 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 680.

¹³³ Situation of Human Rights in Yemen, para. 62.

¹³⁴ Situation of Human Rights in Yemen, para. 63.

¹³⁵ January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter, para. 156.



Efforts to pursue justice are complicated as the definition of sexual abuse or violence and the codification of rape as adultery in Yemeni law are not clear.¹³⁶

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and refugees are particularly vulnerable to SGBV. Sexual violence by trafficking gangs is reportedly perpetrated against women and girls upon their arrival in Yemen and while in transit to other countries.¹³⁷ Child marriages, which were already highly prevalent in Yemen, have also increased.¹³⁸ The UN has observed a “disturbing link” between the presence of armed groups and an increase in both early and forced marriages.¹³⁹ Girls forced into marriage are often impregnated and then abandoned with their children as fighters flee government forces.¹⁴⁰ It is estimated that 52 per cent of Yemeni girls marry before age 18, and 14 per cent before age 15.¹⁴¹ Child marriages are also used pre-emptively to avoid complications around “marriageability”, should a girl be raped.¹⁴²

4. Education

The ongoing conflict has had a massive impact on access to education. About two million school-age children are currently out of school.¹⁴³ Since the conflict escalated in March 2015, more than 1,600 schools have been directly impacted.¹⁴⁴ At least 1,412 have been partially or totally damaged, while some have been used for hosting internally displaced people, and others have been used by armed groups.¹⁴⁵ In 2015 alone, the UN verified 42 attacks on schools, with the largest number in Amanat al-Asimah, Ta’izz and Sa’dah. The UN also verified 51 incidents of military use of schools, of which the large majority took place in Ta’izz by Houthi forces.¹⁴⁶

¹³⁶ United Nations Security Council, ‘Report of the Secretary-General: conflict-related sexual violence’, UN Doc. S/2015/203 (23 March 2015) (‘2015 SG Report Sexual Violence’), para. 65.

¹³⁷ 2015 SG Report Sexual Violence, para. 65.

¹³⁸ January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter, para. 157.

¹³⁹ 2015 SG Report Sexual Violence, para. 64.

¹⁴⁰ 2015 SG Report Sexual Violence, para. 64.

¹⁴¹ UN HNO 2017, p. 18.

¹⁴² January 2016 Panel of Experts Letter, para. 157.

¹⁴³ UN HNO 2017, p. 13; UNICEF, ‘For one child education is solution to Yemen Violence’ (5 January 2017), available https://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/yemen_93364.html accessed 18 January 2017.

¹⁴⁴ UNICEF Report Yemen, p. 13.

¹⁴⁵ UNICEF Report Yemen; UN HNO 2017.

¹⁴⁶ 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, paras. 171-172.



5. Access to Healthcare

In 2015, the UN verified 59 incidents of attacks on 34 hospitals with multiple attacks on the same facilities. Of the attacks, 90 per cent caused the partial or complete destruction of schools or health facilities.¹⁴⁷ In Aden, six facilities were attacked ten times. In Ta'izz, three health facilities were hit in 23 separate incidents. The majority of repeated attacks were attributed to Houthi forces.¹⁴⁸ In addition, four incidents of military use of hospitals were verified, of which three were attributed to the Houthis and one to Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula.¹⁴⁹ The coalition is also responsible for attacks on schools, including, for instance, an attack on a Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) facility, killing 19, resulting in MSF's withdrawal from six hospitals in northern Yemen.¹⁵⁰

Access to healthcare has seriously deteriorated since the beginning of the conflict, due primarily to the near collapse of the health system resulting from the Houthi-Saleh blockades. Houthi and allied forces have reportedly confiscated food and medical supplies and have blocked the delivery of vital humanitarian assistance, “contributing to the near collapse of the health system”.¹⁵¹ The Saudi-led coalition has also been complicit in the health situation through their restrictions on air and land travel.¹⁵² As of 2016, over 600 health facilities were closed as a result of the conflict.¹⁵³ The inability to transport vital goods, such as fuel and medicine, has prevented the provision of adequate healthcare to those injured in the conflict or stricken with other health concerns.¹⁵⁴ Moreover, humanitarian and health workers face violence at the hands of the Houthi-Saleh and coalition forces.¹⁵⁵ In at least four instances, aid workers have been detained while attempting to deliver medical supplies to healthcare facilities.¹⁵⁶

The situation has led to outbreaks of dengue fever and cholera in various parts of Yemen.¹⁵⁷ Since March 2015, ten thousand children under the age of five have died from preventable diseases, simply from a lack

¹⁴⁷ 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 169.

¹⁴⁸ 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 170.

¹⁴⁹ 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 172.

¹⁵⁰ 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, pp. 511, 677.

¹⁵¹ 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 678.

¹⁵² Situation of Human Rights in Yemen, para. 43.

¹⁵³ 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 678.

¹⁵⁴ Situation of Human Rights in Yemen, para. 43.

¹⁵⁵ 2016 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 647.

¹⁵⁶ 2016 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 647.

¹⁵⁷ UNSC Situation in Middle East.



of access to immunisations or treatments for diarrhea and pneumonia.¹⁵⁸ Moreover, an estimated 308,000 children under the age of five years are acutely malnourished, with 56,000 children severely malnourished and at risk of death. In December 2016, UNOCHA estimated that 14 million people were food insecure of whom 7 million do not know where their next meal will come from.¹⁵⁹ In January 2014, the UN warned that this food crisis could become famine this year.¹⁶⁰

The prevalence of wasting and stunting in Yemen is among the highest in the region and in the world.

¹⁵⁸ See United Nations, ‘Conflict, Humanitarian Situation Worsens in Yemen, as Parties Reject Road Map, Cession-of-Hostilities Agreement, Senior Officials Tell Security Council’ (31 October 2016), available <https://www.un.org/press/en/2016/sc12570.doc.htm> accessed 18 January 2017.

¹⁵⁹ UNOCHA, ‘Yemen Humanitarian Bulletin Issue 19’ (31 December 2016), p. 3.

¹⁶⁰ See e.g. UN News, ‘Urging ‘bold decisions’ to end Yemen conflict, UN envoy says viable peace plan within reach’ (26 January 2017), available <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=56051#.WJERXhiZPdQ> accessed 31 January 2017.



Annex I: List of Abbreviations

AQAP	Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
ISIL	Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant
MSF	Médecins Sans Frontières
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNOCHA	United Nations Office of Coordination for Humanitarian Affairs



ANNEX II: KEY FACTS¹⁶¹

Yemen in a Snapshot

	Yemen
Geography	<p>Climate: mostly desert; hot and humid along west coast; temperate in western mountains affected by seasonal monsoon; extraordinarily hot, dry, harsh desert in east</p> <p>Terrain: narrow coastal plain backed by flat-topped hills and rugged mountains; dissected upland desert plains in center slope into the desert interior of the Arabian Peninsula</p> <p>Border countries: Oman (294 km), Saudi Arabia (1,307 km)</p> <p>Coastline: 1,906 km</p>
People	<p>Population: 27,392,779 (July 2016 est.)</p> <p>Median age: 19.2 years</p> <p>Languages: Arabic (official), note: a distinct Socotri language is widely used on Socotra Island and Archiplago; Mahiri is still fairly widely spoken in eastern Yemen.</p> <p>Ethnic groups: Predominantly Arab; but also Afro-Arab, South Asians, Europeans</p> <p>Religions: Muslim 99.1% (official; estimated 65% Sunni and 35% Shia), other 0.9% includes Jewish, Baha'i, Hindu and Christian; many are refugees or temporary foreign residents) (2010 est.)</p>
Economy	<p>Capital: Sana'a</p> <p>Major urban areas: Sana'a (capital) 2.962 million; Aden 882,000 (est. 2015)</p> <p>GDP: \$31.33 billion (2015 est.)</p> <p>GDP per capita: \$2,500 (2016 est.)</p> <p>GDP by sector: agriculture: 23.6%, industry: 8.9% services: 67.5% (2016 est.)</p>
Children and youth	<p>Population under age of 25: 61.64%</p> <p>Unemployment (ages 15-24): 33.7%</p> <p>Child labour (ages 5-14): 23% (2006 est.)</p> <p>Legal age of conscription: 18 (voluntary military service, no conscription, 2-year service obligation) (2012 est.)</p>

¹⁶¹ Central Intelligence Agency, 'Yemen' available <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ym.html> accessed 18 January 2017.



Relevant UN Security Council Resolutions

On the transition of power – Resolutions 2140 (26 February 2014); 2051 (12 June 2012); 2014 (21 October 2011)

On sanctions – Resolutions 2266 (24 February 2016); 2140 (26 February 2014); 2051 (12 June 2012)

On the Houthis – Resolution 2201 (15 February 2015)

On an arms embargo – Resolution 2216 (14 April 2015)

On renewing sanctions and mandate of Panel of Experts – Resolutions 2266 (24 February 2016); 2204 (24 February 2015)

Yemeni Child Protection Legislation

	Yemen
National	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Constitution of Yemen▪ Rights of the Child Act▪ The Juveniles Act▪ The Penal Code▪ The Civil Code▪ The Personal Status Act▪ The Civil Service Act▪ Non-governmental associations and institutions act▪ The Disabled Welfare and Rehabilitation Act▪ The Welfare and Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Act

International	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination (1972) ▪ International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1987) ▪ International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (1987) ▪ Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1984) ▪ Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1991) ▪ Convention on the Rights of the Child (1991) ▪ Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (2007) ▪ Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2009) ▪ Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2009) ▪ Geneva Conventions, 1949 (1977) ▪ Additional Protocol (I) to the Geneva Conventions, 1977 (1990) ▪ Additional Protocol (II) to the Geneva Conventions, 1977 (1990)
----------------------	--

ANNEX III: TIMELINE OF NOTABLE EVENTS¹⁶²

1990

May: Two Yemens united as Republic of Yemen with President Saleh. Soviet bloc collapses and tension between former states continues.

1993

April: Coalition government formed, made up of ruling parties of former north and south. Attempted split

1994

May: Saleh declares state of emergency and dismisses Vice President Al-Baid and other southern government members following political deadlock and sporadic fighting.

May – July: Al-Baid declares independence of Democratic Republic of Yemen.

2000

October: US naval vessel USS Cole damaged in al-Qaeda suicide attack in Aden, killing 17 US personnel.

¹⁶² BBC, ‘Yemen Profile – Timeline’ (21 November 2016), available <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-14704951> accessed 18 January 2017; SCR Chronology of Events; Al Jazeera, ‘Timeline: The rise of Yemen’s Houthi rebels’ (23 April 2015), available <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/interactive/2015/03/timeline-yemen-houthis-150326163406556.html> accessed 18 January 2017.



2002

February: Yemen expels more than 100 foreign Islamic clerics in crackdown on al-Qaeda.

2003

April: 10 chief suspects in bombing of USS Cole escape custody in Aden, but two are recaptured in 2004.

2004

June – August: Hundred die as troops battle Shia insurgency led by Hussein al-Houthi in the north.

September: Hussein al-Houthi killed by government forces.

2005

March – April: More than 200 killed in resurgence of fighting between government forces and supporters of Hussein al-Houthi.

May: President Saleh says the leader of the rebellion in the north has agreed to renounce the campaign in return for a pardon.

2006

March: More than 600 followers of Hussein al-Houthi captured during rebellion he led in 2004 are released under amnesty.

2007

January – March: Scores are killed or wounded in clashes between security forces and al-Houthi rebels in north.

June: Rebel leader Abdul-Malik al-Houthi accepts ceasefire.

August: Citizens are banned from carrying firearms in Sana'a and demonstrating without a permit.

2008

January: Renewed clashes between security forces and rebels loyal to Abdul-Malik al-Houthi.

March – April: Series of bomb attacks on police, official, diplomatic, foreign businesses and tourism targets. US embassy evacuates all non-essential personnel.

September: Attack on US embassy in Sana'a kills 18 people, including 6 assailants.

October: President Saleh announces arrest of suspected Islamist militants allegedly linked to Israeli intelligence.

November: Police fire warning shots at Common Forum opposition rally in Sana'a. Demonstrators demand electoral reform and fresh polls.

2009

February: Government announces release of 176 Al-Qaeda suspects on condition of good behavior.



August: Yemeni army launches fresh offensive against Shia rebels in northern Saada province, displacing thousands of people.

November: Saudi Arabia regains control of territory seized by Yemeni rebels in cross-border incursion.

December: Yemen-based branch of al-Qaeda claims it was behind failed attack on US airliner. Yemeni government calls on West for more support to combat al-Qaeda threat.

2010

February: Government signs ceasefire with Houthi northern rebels, which breaks down in December.

October: Global terror alert after packages containing explosives from Yemen are intercepted in US-bound cargo planes.

2011

June: President Saleh is injured in rocket attack and flown to Saudi Arabia, returning home in September.

September: US-born al-Qaeda leader Anwar al-Awlaki is assassinated by US forces.

November: President Saleh agrees to hand over power to his deputy, Hadi. Unity government including prime minister from opposition formed.

2012

February: Presidential elections take place, electing Vice President Hadi.

June: Council unanimously adopts resolution 2051, with readiness to consider other measures, should actions to undermine the government of National Unity and the political transition continue.

September: Defense Minister Muhammad Nasir Ahmad survives car bomb attack in Sana'a that kills 11 people, one day after reports that al-Qaeda deputy head Said al-Shiri has died in the south.

2013

January: Council members visit Yemen and meet with President Hadi, parliamentarians, civil society and Gulf Cooperation Council members. This is the first Council visiting mission to Yemen.

2014

January: National Dialogue Conference concludes after 10 months of deliberation, agreeing the document on which the new constitution will be based.

July: Tribesmen blow up Yemen's largest oil pipeline, disrupting supplies from interior to a Red Sea export terminal. The Security Council issues press statement, demanding Houthis to withdraw and relinquish control of Amran and give their weapons and ammunition to the government.

April: Yemeni forces launch operation against al-Qaeda.

August: President Hadi sacks his cabinet and overturns controversial fuel price rise following two weeks of anti-government protests in which Houthi rebels are heavily involved.

September: Houthi rebels take control of most of Sana'a.

October: Houthis capture strategic Red Sea city of Hudeida.

November: Yemen announces new government, which is rejected by the Houthis.



2015

January: Houthis reject draft constitution proposed by government and clash with troops in Sana'a. President Hadi resigns.

February: Houthis take over government and appoint presidential council to replace President Hadi, who flees house arrest in Sana'a to Aden. UN Security Council denounces Houthi coup.

March: IS carries out first major attacks in Yemen, targeting Shia mosques in Sana'a killing 137 people. Houthis seize central city of Taiz. President Hadi flees Aden. Saudi-led coalition of Gulf Arab states launch air strikes against Houthi targets and imposes naval blockade.

April: UN reports 100,000 newly displaced people in Yemen since strikes began. UN Security Council to vote on Yemen resolution, Houthis condemn UN resolution.

June: Nasser al-Wuhaysi, leader of al-Qaeda in Arabian Peninsula, killed in US drone strike in Yemen.

September: President Hadi returns to Aden after Saudi-backed government forces recapture port city from Houthi forces and launch advance on Aden.

2016

April: UN-sponsored talks begin, with the government on one side and Houthis and former president Saleh's General People's Congress on the other.

May – June: ISIL claims responsibility for several attacks in Yemen.

October: Airstrike by Saudi-led coalition hits crowded funeral in Sana'a, killing 140 and injuring 500.

2017

January: Yemeni army claims full control of Mokha, a port city southwest of the capital Sanaa which had been taken by Houthi rebels in November 2014. US armed forces raid Al-Qaeda, killing 14 members and one navy seal, wounding others.



ANNEX IV: RECOMMENDED READING

Human Rights Watch, 'World Report 2017: Events of 2016' (2017).

Human Rights Watch, 'World Report 2016: Events of 2015' (2016).

United Nations General Assembly, 'Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, Ben Emmerson', UN Doc. A/HRC/29/51 (16 June 2015).

United Nations General Assembly, 'Situation of human rights in Yemen: Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights', UN Doc. A/HRC/33/38 (4 August 2016).

United Nations Human Rights Council, 'Annual report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict', UN Doc. A/HRC/31/19 (28 December 2015).

United Nations Security Council, 'Children and Armed Conflict: report of the Secretary-General', UN Doc. S/2016/360 (20 April 2016).

United Nations Security Council, 'Children and Armed Conflict: report of the Secretary-General', UN Doc. S/2015/409 (5 June 2015).

United Nations Security Council, 'Letter dated 22 January 2016 from the Panel of Experts on Yemen established pursuant to Security Council resolution 2140 (2014) addressed to the President of the Security Council', UN Doc. S/2016/73 (26 January 2016).

United Nations Security Council, 'Letter dated 16 June 2015 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities addressed to the President of the Security Council', UN Doc. S/2015/441 (16 June 2015).

United Nations Security Council, 'Report of the Secretary-General: conflict-related sexual violence', UN Doc. S/2015/203 (23 March 2015).

United Nations Security Council, 'The situation in the Middle East', UN Doc. S/PV.7797 (31 October 2016).

United States Department of State, 'Trafficking in Persons Report' (June 2016).

United States Department of State, 'Trafficking in Persons Report' (July 2015).



UN OCHA, '2017 Yemen Humanitarian Needs Overview' (November 2016).