

## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

**YEMEN: Military action near Hodeidah City threatens food supplies for millions of children**

Save the Children is deeply worried for the welfare of 4.2 million children in Yemen on the brink of starvation following [reports](#) that the Yemeni Army, backed by the Saudi- and Emirati-led Coalition, has launched airstrikes outside the port city of Hodeidah, effectively shutting down the main artery linking the port city to the rest of the country. The charity is calling on parties to the conflict to ensure the road linking Hodeidah to the rest of the country remains open and safe to use.

Hodeidah is home to Yemen's largest port and the main gateway for food, fuel and humanitarian aid to the rest of the country. An estimated 80 per cent of Yemen's commercial supplies go through Hodeidah. The Yemeni Government and the Saudi- and Emirati-led Coalition have been trying to retake the vital port city from the Houthis for the past few months displacing [470,000](#) people since June, according to the UN. But it is still home to hundreds of thousands of civilians, half of them children.

**Tamer Kirolos, Yemen Country Director, Save the Children, said:**

*"I cannot emphasise enough how vital it is that the main road linking Hodeidah to Sanaa remains open and accessible for the movement of people, food, fuel and aid to the rest of the country. It's quite literally a matter of life and death."*

*"Yemeni children are starving to death. This year alone we expect some [400,000](#) children under five to suffer from severe acute malnutrition, the most life-threatening form of extreme hunger. Unless supply routes remain open this figure could increase dramatically, putting the lives of thousands of children at risk from entirely preventable causes."*

*"We urge all parties to end hostilities immediately, commit to a ceasefire and give peace a chance. With the UN Special Envoy, Martin Griffiths, due in Yemen this weekend, now is not the time to escalate the conflict. The people of Yemen have suffered enough misery."*

Over the past two months we have seen a marked increase in the number of airstrikes targeting non-military sites in Yemen, including recent attacks on a [school bus](#) in Saada and a [hospital](#) in Hodeidah. The [Yemen Data Project](#) says that in August the number of air raids targeting non-military sites (39%) was more than double that of military sites (18%).

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Save the Children believes every child deserves a future. Around the world, we work every day to give children a healthy start in life, the opportunity to learn and protection from harm. When crisis strikes, and children are most vulnerable, we are always among the first to respond and the last to leave. We ensure children's unique needs are met and their voices are heard. We deliver lasting results for millions of children, including those hardest to reach.

We do whatever it takes for children – every day and in times of crisis – transforming their lives and the future we share.