In September 2014, the Houthis took control of Yemen’s capital, Sanaa, and proceeded to push southwards towards the country’s second-biggest city, Aden. In response to the Houthis’ advances, a coalition of Arab states launched a military campaign in 2015 to defeat the Houthis and restore Yemen’s government.

As the crisis entered its sixth year, the conflict is more fragmented than ever with the opening of a new front in the South, opposing the Internationally Recognized Government (IRG) to the Southern Transitional Council (STC) and the ongoing implication of several neighbouring countries.

Despite multiple attempts by the United Nations (UN) to broker a cease-fire that would lead to a comprehensive settlement to the conflict, the parties themselves continue to hinder diplomatic progress. In December 2018, the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for Yemen Martin Griffiths brokered a cease-fire, known as the Stockholm Agreement. If negotiations between the parties have intensified recently and give hope that a Peace Agreement will be signed in the coming years, political instability is expected to continue. **Active conflict between the Houthis and the IRG in 2021 intensified in some areas opening seven new frontlines along the borders of Ma’rib, Sana’a and Al Jawf governorates.**

In Al Hodeidah, Ad Dali, Al Bayda, Sadah and Taiz governorates, conflict remains intermittent with no major changes since the Stockholm agreement was signed. **Talks to implement the Riyadh agreement, signed in November 2019 between the IRG and the STC, resumed on July 2020 after tensions has raised between the two parties in Abyan in May 2020. The negotiations suffered multiple setbacks but reached an agreement including the formation of a new Cabinet on 18 December 2020.**

Regardless of the talks, the conflict in Yemen continues and is still threatening the lives of millions. The blockade imposed by the Saudi-led coalition leads to shortage and increase of prices of basic goods. Yemen’s economy has been shattered by the ongoing conflict, and the COVID-19 pandemic has further worsened the situation. Some 20 million people, 80 per cent of the entire population, continue to require some form of assistance or protection and close to half of all families are in acute need. Over 230 of Yemen’s 333 governorates are food insecure.
Nevertheless, political shifts in the U.S. could reinvigorate international efforts to end Yemen’s six-year-old civil war. Yemen was at the heart of President Joe Biden’s first major foreign policy speech on 4 February. He revoked the Trump administration’s last-minute designation of the Houthis as terrorists on February 13, 2021, appointed a new U.S. special envoy for Yemen, and promised a renewed focus on UN-led diplomacy, while ending “offensive support” for the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen, including the sale of U.S.-made precision-guided missiles to Riyadh.

HEALTH SITUATION

The conflict has devastated the health care system in Yemen. According to the 2018 Health Resources Availability Monitoring System (HeRAMS) assessment, 49% of health facilities are not functioning or only partially functioning due to staff shortages, lack of supplies, inability to meet operational costs or limited access. Since 2015, there have been 120 incidents recorded as attacks on health care.

COVID-19 pandemic has made the fragile health system and populations even more vulnerable. Due to its high fatality, people were discouraged to go to the health facilities if not for emergency cases. In MDM-supported HFs, there has been a sharp decrease of health service utilization which reflects the trend in the whole country: 21% decrease in medical consultations, 42% decrease in SRH consultations, 33% decrease in MHPSS consultation and 81% in childhood services.

A second wave of COVID-19 is now overwhelming Yemen. Recorded cases of Covid in the first two weeks of March were 22 times higher than the number of cases in the first two weeks of February. The figures indicate a sharp rise in the number of people being admitted to healthcare facilities with severe symptoms as these are the only people who are tested.

MDM ACTION

Since 2007, Médecins du Monde (MdM) has been operating in Yemen to support populations affected by the long-standing conflict in the country.

MDM overall strategy in the country focuses on holistic primary health care (curative consultations, MHPSS services, SRH services), through supporting the provision of free of charge consultations and medications for all the vulnerable groups (such as children and pregnant and lactating women) in the targeted districts. This approach is implemented in partnership with the MoH and local organizations. Thanks to MDM support to primary healthcare services, populations can have access to curative consultations, pre and postnatal consultations, routine immunization, nutritional referrals, health education, psychosocial support and individual counselling for mental health.

Furthermore, MDM aim to respond to outbreaks of communicable diseases affecting the population when they occur such as Diphtheria, Cholera, Measles and COVID-19 and to rehabilitate or construct health facilities when needed.

At a community level, MdM work with identified community volunteers from the target communities to provide health education activities. These sessions empower the community to identify health problems and create community awareness on health issues and the availability of PHC services.

Currently, MDM works in 5 Governorates (Sana’a, Amanat, Ibb, Lahj, and Abyan) through three established offices (Sana’a as the Coordination base, Ibb and Aden as field bases) supporting 16 public health facilities (HFs), including 6 hospitals and 10 Primary Health Care Centers or Health Units.

MDM MAIN ACTIVITIES - 2020

- **229,300** CURATIVE CONSULTATIONS including **22,250** ANTENATAL consultations
- **83,000** PEOPLE attended HEALTH EDUCATION AWARENESS sessions
- **66,000** MHPSS CONSULTATIONS (individual and group sessions)
- **33,500** CHILDREN SCREENED for MALNUTRITION
MDM ADVOCACY STRATEGY

MDM Yemen Mission has successfully thus far contributed in joining several joint Statements advocating for respecting IHL, protection of civilians and civil structures. MDM HQ has participated and organized some events about Yemen jointly with other humanitarian and human rights INGOs.

Between 2020 and beginning of 2021, several types of advocacy contributions were done by MDM:

- At HQ level, MDM joined a coalition of other INGOs which is organizing legal efforts/activities in France to increase French parliament control on selling weapons to countries involved in Yemen war.
- At HQ level with participation of general coordinator, different articles, interviews in French and international media to advocate for the needs in Yemen to stop war and left the blockade.
- At HQ level, on March 25, 2021, together with a coalition of 12 INGOs in France, MDM participated in a public event to show solidarity with the Yemeni citizens who have been victims of the conflict for the past six years.
- At HQ level, in April 2021, MDM and other French-based INGOs operating in Yemen initiated a meeting with the French Ambassador for Yemen and the Centre de Crise et de Soutien (French MoFA).
- At mission level with HQ validation, MDM joined different INGO statements and advocacy papers.
- At mission level, General Coordinator was invited to brief the UN Security Council and to speak at the UN General Assembly side event in September 2020.
- At mission level, on March 2021, General Coordinator participated in a UK cross-party parliamentary meeting on Yemen.

Donors meetings were used by MDM to emphasize advocacy messages in form of requests to the donors.

Photos: Place de la République, Paris. On March 25, 2021, together with a coalition of 12 INGOs in France, MDM participated in a public event to show solidarity with the Yemeni citizens who have been victims of the conflict for the past six years / © MDM

DONORS

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92 STAFF
5,300,000 €
2021 BUDGET