

Yemen has “never looked more likely to slide into famine”, Foreign Secretary warns

The humanitarian situation in Yemen is rapidly deteriorating and the war-torn country has never been more at risk of mass starvation, Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said today, 17 September, whilst on an official visit to the United States.

Speaking at a special meeting convened by the UK, Germany, Kuwait and Sweden ahead of this month's UN General Assembly, the Foreign Secretary warned that humanitarian funding for non-government organisations and United Nations (UN) agencies is now catastrophically low. This year, the UN has only received just over 30% of what it needs to help those who depend on aid for their survival.

In addition to ensuring immediate humanitarian needs are met, the UK remains at the forefront of international efforts to reach a political solution to the conflict, using its role as the lead on Yemen at the UN Security Council to drive political progress to end the conflict. At today's meeting, the Foreign Secretary stressed the need for the parties to cooperate constructively with the Special Envoy and agree to his proposals to immediately stop the fighting and restart peace talks.

The Foreign Secretary is today announcing £5.8 million of new UK aid to help avert a famine in Yemen, taking the UK's total contribution since the conflict began to over £1 billion. This year, UK support will help at least 500,000 vulnerable people each month to buy food and household essentials including soap and medicines.

Speaking at a meeting of the permanent UN Security Council (UNSC) members and key allies, Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said:

The humanitarian situation in Yemen is now the worst it has ever been, and compounded with the threat of coronavirus, the country has never looked more likely to slide into famine.

Unless donors urgently act now and follow through on their pledges, hundreds of thousands of people are at risk of dying simply from starvation.

We also need to see unwavering support for Special Envoy Martin Griffiths' plans to secure a ceasefire that ends the suffering.

At the launch of the new Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), the Foreign Secretary appointed the UK's first Special Envoy for Famine Prevention and Humanitarian Affairs, Nick Dyer. Over the coming weeks he will

be urgently raising the increasing risk of famine with our allies and partners to spur international action.

Speaking about the situation in Yemen, Nick Dyer said:

There is no plan B for Yemen. The war-torn country is facing an unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe, with hundreds of thousands at risk, unless world leaders take urgent action now.

The Foreign Secretary also expressed concern at the threat posed by the Safer oil tanker, which the UK recently called for a dedicated UNSC session on. With 1.14 million barrels of oil on board, any leaks into the Red Sea would make Yemen's situation worse. The Houthis must follow through on their promises and allow UN experts to carry out essential work to prevent a regional environmental, economic and humanitarian catastrophe.

Restrictions on humanitarian access are stopping aid from reaching those who need it, particularly in Houthi-controlled areas. Humanitarians on the ground are already doing an extremely difficult job, and the Foreign Secretary called on all parties to refrain from hindering them any further.

The UK also joined a UN Security follow-up session on resolution 2417 today, to ensure humanitarian access to civilian populations in conflict zones and protect millions of people from extreme hunger in Yemen, the DRC, South Sudan and Nigeria.

Notes to editors

- The new FCDO is using the UK's diplomatic levers and aid expertise to build a stronger international consensus to fight back against the devastating impacts of coronavirus, conflict and climate change.
- The Foreign Ministers of Germany, Kuwait, Sweden, and the United Kingdom co-hosted a meeting on 17 September 2020, ahead of the 75th United Nations General Assembly, with Ministers and representatives of the United States of America, the People's Republic of China, France, the Russian Federation and the European Union, and the United Nations to discuss the urgent need for political progress in Yemen.
- Dominic Raab recently announced £25 million to provide humanitarian relief in Yemen as part of a broader drive to tackle famine and food insecurity around the world. Today's announcement of £5.8 million is in addition to this.

[Safety-critical alerts are changing at](#)

the MHRA

News story

The MHRA will now issue all safety-critical alerts for medicines and medical devices that require action as National Patient Safety Alerts



The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is changing the way it issues safety-critical alerts to healthcare providers.

From now on, all safety-critical alerts for medicines and medical devices that require action to be taken by healthcare organisations will be issued as National Patient Safety Alerts. These alerts follow criteria and a template agreed by the National Patient Safety Alerting Committee (NaPSAC).

This is to ensure that National Patient Safety alerts:

- are only issued for safety-critical issues (those that have a risk of death or disability) that require organisations to act
- explain risk clearly and effectively
- have required actions that have been assessed for feasibility, safety, efficacy and cost-effectiveness
- can be quickly recognised and actioned by senior personnel
- have actions that are SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timely).

Failure to take the actions required by any National Patient Safety Alert may lead to the Care Quality Commission (CQC) taking regulatory action in England.

All healthcare providers that currently receive medical device alerts and drug alerts should now ensure they subscribe to receive National Patient Safety Alerts [here](#).

In the short term, drug alerts and medicines safety communications that do not meet the NaPSAC criteria will continue to be issued as per the current format and process while the MHRA consults with the health system and healthcare professionals to determine the best way for these to be issued going forward.

Safety communications for medical devices that do not meet the NaPSAC criteria will change and these changes will be communicated in due course.

NaPSAC consists of representation from all organisations that issue safety information to the NHS. It was established to improve the effectiveness of safety-critical communications and to support providers to better implement the required actions to ensure patients are protected.

The MHRA is the second organisation to be accredited to issue these alerts, after NHS England and Improvement's National Patient Safety team.

For more information on National Patient Safety Alerts, please visit:

Published 17 September 2020

[DVLA online services: quick and easy for you](#)

Did you know that you can now change the address on your vehicle log book (V5C), as well as your driving licence?

If you need to change your address then why not give it a go? It takes minutes, it's easy to do and your details will be updated instantly on DVLA's records.

The [new service](#) adds to an already wide range of DVLA transactions that you can do online, including:

All of these services are easier than applying by post, and for driving licence renewals it's also cheaper to do it online.

Visit [GOV.UK](#) to find all of our online services.

[UN Human Rights Council 45: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Truth, Justice,](#)

Reparation and Guarantees of non-Recurrence

World news story

The UK's Counsellor for Human Rights, Matthew Forman, delivered this statement during the Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Truth, Justice, Reparation and Guarantees of non-Recurrence



The Human Rights Council takes place in Geneva

Thank you Madam President

The UK thanks Mr Salvioli for his report, and would like to make some remarks in relation to the report by his predecessor on his visit to Sri Lanka.

We welcome the report by Mr de Greiff and its recommendations. We also welcome your expressed interest in following up on it.

We share the concerns expressed regarding transitional justice in Sri Lanka. While we welcome the establishment of domestic mechanisms such as the Office of Missing Persons, the UK has made clear our profound disappointment at the Government's decision to withdraw support for resolution 30/1. We believe the resolution is a powerful framework for achieving truth and justice.

Effective transitional justice is critical for sustainable reconciliation and peace. We note that previous domestic mechanisms have failed to deliver meaningful justice and accountability.

We share the concerns at the lack of meaningful progress on emblematic cases which embody the struggle of so many victims of conflict. We note with concern the increasing pressure on those members of civil society working for progress on transitional justice, given continued instances of surveillance, harassment and intimidation by security forces. These reports call into question the Government's stated commitment to transitional justice.

The UK urges the Government of Sri Lanka to give detailed consideration to

the recommendations in Mr Greiff's report. We will continue to support those striving for progress on these issues in Sri Lanka.

Published 17 September 2020

[UK's Defence Senior Advisor concludes visit to Egypt](#)

World news story

Lieutenant General Sir John Lorimer, UK Chief of Defence Staff's Senior Advisor to the Middle East and North Africa has concluded a three-day official visit.



The visit aimed to further promote the bilateral military cooperation between both countries' armed forces. During his visit, DSAME held high-level meetings with senior representatives from the Egyptian Armed Forces and was accompanied by British Defence Attaché Captain (Royal Navy) Stephen Deacon. The meetings touched on military aspects of common interest including opportunities to conduct joint military and naval exercises. Views were also exchanged on the latest regional military developments and ways to maintain maritime security in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Making remarks at the end of his visit, Lieutenant General Lorimer said:

I am delighted to be back in Egypt and to meet my friends in the Egyptian Armed Forces. COVID-19 has been a challenge for us all, so I am glad to be able to return to Egypt, whilst observing sensible precaution measures. We have had excellent discussions about regional security, current challenges, and discussed how we might work together more closely, including joint military training, COVID-19 permitting. We are determined to continue to cooperate closely in our counter-terrorism efforts and recognise that we have many shared responsibilities and objectives for regional security.'

British Ambassador to Egypt Sir Geoffrey Adams said:

DSAME's visit reaffirmed the UK and Egypt's longstanding military and strategic partnership. The UK is committed to Egypt's security and stability, and we look forward to continued cooperation to

strengthen our defence relations.

Published 17 September 2020