



Presbyterian Mission

Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations

YEMEN

The United Nations in Yemen

UN Development Program (UNDP): UNDP is responsible for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Since the onset of the conflict in 2015, however, development gains have been substantially reversed.¹ A UNDP Yemen-Commissioned study on war and development project that if the conflict ends in 2022, developmental projects that if the conflict ends in 2022, developmental gains will be set back twenty-six years. If the war continues through 2030, setbacks would be up to four decades.²

UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR): UNHCR provides aid to displaced Yemenis across the country. This includes shelter, blankets, food, and other supplies. They also shelter the 137,000 refugees living in Yemen, primarily from the Horn of Africa who are at particular risk. Unfortunately, a lack of funding severely limits their work.³

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA): As of April 2022, 23 million people in Yemen are in need of assistance from OCHA, the UN agency responsible for coordinating the humanitarian response to disaster. As an example of part of that aid, OCHA had provided 4,700 eco-friendly huts to more than 30,000 Yemenis.⁴ The top funded areas in need are security and agriculture, nutrition, health, and shelter and NFI.⁵

UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR): OHCHR monitors and reports on human rights around the world, including Yemen. The Office also provides support to the Yemeni government on the implementation and adherence to rights-based international mechanisms.⁶

UN Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen (OSEGY): The Special Envoy for Yemen has a mandate to engage with all sides of the conflict in Yemen and lead UN support for multilateral government institutes. They also frequently report to the UN Security Council.⁷

UN Security Council: The UN Security Council has implemented sanctions against individuals or entities that threaten peace and security in Yemen. They hear frequent updates as the situation unfolds which informs further actions by the UN.⁸

World Health Organization (WHO): As of 2020, over 17.9 million of 30 million Yemeni people are in need of health care assistance. WHO works on the ongoing cholera outbreak, vaccination planning, and ensuring clean sanitation.⁹

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) & Yemen

PC(USA) Policy on Yemen: The 223rd General Assembly (2018) in St. Louis passed a comprehensive policy to influence the Church's direction on the ongoing Saudi-led war in Yemen. This included an acknowledgement of the role the U.S. plays in promoting violence through tax dollars, arms sales, and the use of military equipment and its impact on the people of Yemen. Famine and an unprecedented cholera outbreak are two such consequences of U.S.-backed intervention. The Church is called to advocate for an immediate end to hostilities and a just political, not military solution.¹⁰

Presbyterian Mission: The Presbyterian Hunger Program has identified partners to work with to support development work in response to the ongoing crisis. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the Presbyterian Hunger Program helped fund this effort.¹¹

Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations (PMUN)

Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations is called to act on an issue when it meets three criteria: the PC(USA) has a policy regarding the topic, partner churches are in favor of action, and it appears on the UN agenda. In the case of Yemen, PMUN has interpreted their ministry through participation in ecumenical advocacy on the UN Security Council.

NGO Working Group on the Security Council: The NGO Working Group was founded in 1995 to promote dialogue between the NGO community with foreign officials, policy experts, and members of the Security Council. PMUN involvement in the working group creates an exchange of information and perspective between the PC(USA) and the principal UN organ for the maintenance of international peace and security, including responsibilities for setting the mandate for the peacekeeping mission in Yemen.¹²

¹ <http://www.ye.undp.org/>

² <https://www.ye.undp.org/content/yemen/en/home/sustainable-development-goals.html>

³ <https://reliefweb.int/report/yemen/yemen-humanitarian-update-issue-4-april-2022>

⁴ <https://www.unocha.org/yemen>

⁵ <https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/yemen-emergency.html>

⁶ <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Countries/MENARRegion/Pages/YEIndex.aspx>

⁷ <https://osesgy.unmissions.org/un-yemen>

⁸ <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/yemen/>

⁹ <https://www.who.int/emergencies/situations/yemen-crisis>

¹⁰ <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/3000276>

¹¹ <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/presbyterians-partner-to-assist-with-extreme-crisis-in-yemen/>

¹² <https://www.globalpolicy.org/ngo-working-group-on-the-security-council-4-24.html>