



Yemen Civil War

Nikunj Goel and Aaradhya Shetty

Co-Chairs

Yemen Civil War

Letter from the Chairs

Honorable Delegates,

The topic you are being assigned to is the Yemen Civil War. It is an ongoing conflict that began in 2014 due to Houthi rebels taking control of Yemen's government. This has caused numerous to hundreds of thousands of deaths and many more on the line. Specifically, the two main topics are the refugee crisis and the preservation and protection of water supplies.

Aaradhya Shetty is an 8th grader at Wilder Middle School and will be your chair for the Yemen Civil War crisis committee at Wilder MUN. A multifaceted student, Aaradhya loves to juggle a wide array of passions. As a wrestling team captain in school, swimmer, percussionist, and art student, he has been busy and an aspiring entrepreneur, always searching for new ways to learn, grow, and give back. Even though it is his first time in Model United Nations, he is determined, eager to resolve world issues, and excited to chair honorable delegates.

Nikunj Goel, a co-chair for the Yemen Civil War committee, is also an 8th grader from L. Douglas Wilder Middle School. Nik started his Model UN journey in 7th grade and has since put in so much effort to be a chair and learn about MUN. Outside of Model UN, Nik is an avid volleyball and badminton player. He dedicated much of his time to getting better and playing competitively. He also enjoys taking College-level classes to enhance his performance at school and strengthen many different skills.

Please be confident in the work you have turned in, ensure it is your best, and leave the rest up to the scorers. A good candidate should display a strong understanding of the topic exhibited through your submissions and should be able to fully grasp new content to use for proving your point. Your position paper should contain enough information for you to fully understand the topics. The position papers should be submitted to Aaradhya Shetty (hcps-shettyah@henricostudents.org) before 4:00 on April 24th.

If you have any questions, concerns, or wish to communicate with someone, contact wildermodelun@gmail.com.

Your Chairs,

Nikunj Goel and Aaradhya Shetty

WMUN I

Wilder Model UN Conference

Topic I: Refugee Crisis

Topic II: Preservation and Protection of Water Supplies

Committee Overview:

The prolonged civil conflict in Yemen is one of the bloodiest internal crises of recent history, ongoing uninterrupted since 2014 and holding minimal hopes for a peaceful resolution. This conflict has rooted itself strongly, continuously draining the lives of the citizens of Yemen. This conflict began when the Houthi rebels overthrew the Yemeni government, supported by the Saudi-led alliance. This conflict has caused massive displacement, and massive infrastructure destruction, and has also worsened the ongoing crises faced by the country.

An estimated million were also displaced from their homes (sometimes reaching dozens of millions), and around 1.3 million Yemeni refugees now live in the United States, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Kuwait. Also, from inside Yemen, 4.5 million were internally

displaced, and 21.6 million needed immediate humanitarian relief. In addition, a complicated trend has emerged towards migration to Yemen; close to 150,000 Ethiopians traveled during the year 2018 for work opportunities. Delegates will analyze the underlying causes of the conflict and its implications, and will also suggest practical steps that can enable mobilization for the support for all the displaced people, regardless of whether they are from their country of origin or settling into the host country.

The ongoing conflict has also increased the situation of the water crisis in Yemen, making access to clean drinking water not available for close to half the country's population, about 15.3 million citizens. In the city of Taizz, the limits placed by the Houthis have hindered access by local citizens to the country's waters, triggering cases of civil disturbance. This is

compounded by high population growth, inefficient farming methods, and prioritization by the government for labor-intensive qat farming. These elements have led to acute sanitation and public health crises, typified by high cases of malnourishment and the country's largest cholera epidemic ever. Delegates will also discuss rainwater collection measures, distribution hurdles, and the enhancement of fairness and sustainably orientated water management.

The committee for the conflict over the Yemen Civil War has invited the delegation to delve deeper into the core causes of the interconnected crises. It suggests the potential for partnership toward the achievement of inclusive resolutions. Increased diplomatic engagement and strong leadership cannot doubtfully be essential. Your contribution towards resolving the displacement and scarcity crises will hold the key to the achievement of the common citizen's hopes for security and a peaceful destiny for the country of Yemen.

Topic 1: Refugee Crisis

The History of the issue

The Yemen refugee crisis is one of the world's most critical humanitarian conflicts since the start of the civil war in 2014. Millions of Yemenis have been displaced because of airstrikes, land battles, and economic collapse. So far, 4.5 million Yemenis have been displaced within the country, with 1.2 million refugees fleeing to Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Qatar. This war has led to one of the globe's most devastating humanitarian crises, with 21.6 million Yemenis in need of resources and aid. Even while Yemenis are fleeing out of the country, Yemen strangely stays a destination for migrants from the Horn of Africa and Ethiopia. The majority of these migrants, nearly 150,000 in the year 2018 alone, cross into Yemen for a chance of employment in better nations. But they often find themselves caught in dangerous places, helpless against exploitation, arrest, or forced recruitment.

Potential Conflicts

The crisis has led to numerous conflicts, both within Yemen and host countries. Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Egypt are among countries that find it difficult to absorb Yemeni refugees, leading to strained resources and tensions.

Politically, globally, numerous political interests in Yemen make cooperative refugee policies difficult to attain. Within Yemen itself, the conflict makes humanitarian assistance difficult, and it is nearly impossible to have agencies like the UNHCR and Red Cross reach displaced populations in an effective manner. Security is also a main issue: governments fear that extremists would employ refugee movements as a way to expand influence or carry out attacks, complicating the provision of relief and asylum.

Issues that arise + The Current state

The lack of access to necessities is one of the biggest challenges that Yemeni refugees face. Many of them lack food, clean water, shelter, and medical care, which breeds malnutrition as well as the country's cholera outbreaks. Over 2 million displaced Yemeni children lack education because of displacement and war, and they risk becoming a "lost generation" with little chance of future employment. Financial issues also arise, as many Yemenis leave

their countries of origin with no employment and become extremely impoverished or choose the alternative of illegal work. Legal status also remains a factor; very few refugees have any documentation to allow them to stay in the hosting countries or achieve legal residence, denying them access to work, medical treatment, and protection from deportation.

Social views

The refugee crisis has also caused widespread discrimination. People see Yemenis as either an economic burden or a security threat in certain host countries, so they have difficulty getting work or gaining legal residency. At the same time, many Ethiopian and African migrants who pass through Yemen experience forced labor, human trafficking, and violence. The crisis has been particularly devastating for children and women, who make up the highest numbers of displaced Yemenis. Many young refugees haven't gotten access to education, healthcare, and basic human rights, creating a generation that will grow up in poverty with no prospects for the future.

The Potential Solutions of the UN

The United Nations has tried to avoid the refugee crisis with various methods. Yemeni refugees require more robust protection policies so they can attain

asylum and total rights in host nations. More humanitarian support for refugees as more funds and international aid are needed to provide food, water, health care, and shelter. There cannot be a long-term solution until the war stops, though. The UN continues to call for diplomatic settlements between the Houthis and the Yemeni government to provide a safe environment for the refugees to go back home. In addition to relief and negotiations, integrating Yemeni refugees into the host country through work permits and education access would de-stress economic pressures and dependence on aid for the long term.

Analysis

The Yemen refugee crisis is the direct result of the war, worsened by economic collapse and political instability. The large-scale displacement has overwhelmed Yemen's neighboring countries but limited international concern in the middle of competing crises, such as the war in Ukraine. Humanitarian intervention is needed in the short term to address food insecurity, health emergencies, and economic deprivation, and we must find long-term solutions to focus on ending the war and rebuilding Yemen's infrastructure to help refugee return and integration.

Questions to Consider:

- 1. How are hosting countries assisted in managing the refugee crisis without becoming overwhelmed?**
- 2. What can the international community do to provide sustainable solutions rather than short-term relief?**
- 3. How can assistance be provided to displaced Yemenis despite continued conflict?**
- 4. What can be done to prevent discrimination and exploitation of Yemeni refugees by host countries?**
- 5. How can promotion and funds for Yemen's crisis globally be improved?**

Topic 2: Preservation and Protection of Water Supplies

The History of the issue:

Yemen is the only country in the world, other than Venezuela, where hunger and malnutrition have not improved but worsened since 2000. Three main factors

include the breakdown of the national government, the increasing prevalence of weaponization of water as a war tactic, and the domination of the agricultural sector by qat, a plant with no nutritional value or export potential, causing a disproportionate amount of water year-round. Yemen's millennia-long history of sustainable water use and conservation has been caused by its arid environment. Traditional methods, such as rainwater harvesting (RWH), terracing, and the construction of dams, have helped manage the country's water resources. In recent decades, Yemen has faced increasing pressure on its water supplies due to rapid population growth, agricultural expansion, and modern farming technologies. Historically and in the present, Yemen's water resources have been limited. The 1990s government policies encouraged the growth of water-intensive crops like qat led to a significant strain on Yemen's aquifers. Economically profitable qat farming has substantially contributed to the depletion of groundwater and due to unregulated well drilling, poor infrastructure, and improper water management, the water crisis has become worse.

Potential Conflicts:

No comprehensive study or survey of water resources and usage has been

conducted since 2008, meaning most statistics are at least 16 years out of date. The water crisis has internal and external conflicts. The ongoing civil war between the Saudi-led coalition and Houthi rebels has destroyed water infrastructure, contamination of water sources, restrictions on humanitarian aid, and aimed airstrikes at water reservoirs and desalination plants to displace communities and further deplete resources. There have also been difficulties in implementing sustainable water management policies such as the government struggling to regulate water usage which weakens the overall nation as well as an overall disrupted agricultural production and food security system.

Social views:

The water crisis has disproportionately affected vulnerable groups in Yemen, including children, women, and refugees. Children are particularly vulnerable, with over 11 million children, more than 80% of the youth population, requiring humanitarian aid, and over half of them suffering from life-threatening malnutrition. Since women and girls are primarily responsible for fetching water they are burdened and have limited time for education and economic activities. Social unrest and conflict strain

the addressing of these needs effectively, This leads to a public health crisis. The lack of water has also worsened sanitation conditions where people are susceptible to waterborne diseases as many refugees rely on open water containers and lack access to sanitary facilities.

Issues that arise: + The Current state:

There have been many life-threatening consequences such as famine, poor water, sanitation, and hygiene health and safety practices, the worst cholera outbreak in human history, the worst malnutrition rates in the world, respiratory infections like diarrhea and malaria, and general public health crisis with the spread of diseases like diphtheria, helminthiasis, and schistosomiasis. Malnutrition is incredibly bad in Yemen with not enough water to support the nutritional needs of the entire population. Around 45.1 percent of the total population is malnourished and 83.7 percent of children are malnourished. Yemen is also experiencing water scarcity. This is due to the geography, climate, and geology. The current crisis is from the dramatic changes in politics, the economy, and agriculture. Anything below 500 m3 of water per person per year is considered absolute scarcity. Most recent measurements put Yemen at 78-85 m3 per person per year.

According to the WHO, the amount of water the average Yemeni has is one-fifth of the adequate amount for good health since agriculture uses 5-90% of the whole nation's water. The lack of surface water also caused the depletion of groundwater aquifers. This causes extreme and unsustainable withdrawals of groundwater, water levels dropping at a rate of 3 to 7 meters per year, and many dry wells in urban areas like Sana's and Taizz as well. In 2021, Yemen's water basins were projected to be exhausted by 2041. The country relies heavily on food imports. This worsens Yemen's situation as the war in Ukraine has drawn attention away from it. The water crisis has led to food insecurity in the nation.

The Potential Solutions of the UN:

A comprehensive water survey must be conducted as it is necessary to assess current water conditions and adapt. Adopting rainwater harvesting techniques, widespread across the whole country will help. It will increase individual water supplies and decrease reliance on communal systems and infrastructure. Rooftop harvesting, terracing, and spate irrigation could help capture over 50% of rainfall. This will reduce reliance on over-extracted aquifers and improve water access for both agriculture and urban needs. The UN also

helps by informing policy and addressing emerging issues. They collaborate to shape global policy frameworks on disasters, climate change, sustainable development, and other issues. The general aim is to ensure no one is left behind. Not only do they suggest ideas, but they also support monitoring and reporting on water and sanitation to ensure the safety of the people and reliable data. The effort to accurately monitor and report on the quality of Yemen's water has been something done by internal and external groups of the United Nations. In any effort to help Yemen, there must be a willingness from the people of the country to help out and fix their issue as a strong community as a whole. To inspire Yemenis, United Nations Water coordinates the global thematic campaigns for World Water Day and World Toilet Day every year and creates engaging communications on key water-related issues. This is an effective way to communicate with the public about the situation, how to fix it, and does so in such a way that the public is not immediately pressured by it.

Analysis:

The Houthis and the Yemeni government have created a disaster in Taizz, a city in southwestern Yemen. Houthis have surrounded the Taizz residents' water

supply, which has caused popular unrest. It's estimated that 15.3 million Yemenis don't have a sufficient supply of water, which is almost half of the country's population. This should be solved immediately. This has been caused due to rapid population growth, agricultural expansion, and modern farming technologies which draw water focus away from the population. For example, the government has pushed for profitable qat farming which draws a lot of groundwater. The conflict itself has caused famine, poor water, sanitation, and hygiene health and safety practices, the worst cholera outbreak in human history, and malnutrition as well as diarrhea and malaria. According to the data, Yemen's water basins were expected to be exhausted by 2041. A possible solution includes adopting rainwater harvesting techniques.

Questions to Consider:

- 1. How do we effectively use rainwater harvesting techniques?**
- 2. How can we limit the effects of the lack of water until we can provide more water?**
- 3. How should the government address the issue?**
- 4. Why does the UN need to focus on this issue immediately?**

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