

Yemen: Pledging conference – money alone is not enough

REPORT

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To support the humanitarian response on the crisis in Yemen, the United Nations and humanitarian partners have launched an international monetary appeal to help provide life-saving assistance to the people of Yemen.

The UN and the Swiss and Swedish Governments convened a high-level pledging conference to assist the response on 3 April in Geneva, Switzerland.

In response to the Yemen pledging conference in Geneva, MSF's International Medical Secretary, Mercedes Tatay, said:

“Money alone is not enough to meet Yemen’s urgent humanitarian needs. The pledges made today by donor countries are obviously essential, however they must be complemented by much more robust action on the ground. From what our patients and our field teams tell us, humanitarian assistance is still failing to reach many affected communities in Yemen. This is largely due to ground fighting that has blocked certain parts of the country, and due to the administrative barriers that make it difficult, sometimes impossible, for aid supplies and aid workers to reach areas where the needs are highest. Even in remote areas that are more easily accessible, other humanitarian actors must intervene and increase their presence to meet the needs there.”

“At the same time, people continue to face immense challenges reaching medical facilities. The restrictions on imports have meant that fuel costs have increased beyond people’s means, and many health facilities have run out of supplies, been abandoned, or been damaged by the brutal conduct of the warring parties. In the few health facilities that are still operational, many health staff have not received salaries in more than a year, and are forced to seek paid employment elsewhere.”

“In addition, needs on the ground in Yemen must be the only factor determining how the pledged money is allocated. Donor governments, particularly those involved in the conflict, must not use their pledges for

political leverage in Yemen , as this could be more detrimental to communities where existing barriers are already blocking the provision of aid.”

“Only when these issues are addressed comprehensively can we expect an efficient provision of aid, where the most vulnerable communities are able to receive the assistance they need.”

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