



Media Release

FAMINE OR NOT, 120,000 CHILDREN IN YEMEN ARE IN A 'CATASTROPHIC' CONDITION

Date: 7/12/2018

Statement from Save the Children's Yemen Country Director Tamer Kirolos:

"Whether or not we call the hunger crisis in Yemen a famine is irrelevant to the millions of children going hungry every day and to their parents who struggle to put food on the table.

"The new food insecurity survey released today shows that the hunger crisis in Yemen has been getting worse over the past year with an estimated 120,000 children now classed as living in 'catastrophic' conditions. This means that even with humanitarian aid they have not been meeting their daily food needs for some time, with evidence of starvation, death and destitution. Millions more children could fall into this category unless they receive urgent help.

"Save the Children estimates that 85,000 children may have already died from extreme hunger and disease since the war escalated in 2015, and that number is rising every day.

"Our teams on the ground meet families bringing in their severely malnourished and unresponsive children, desperate to save them. There is nothing worse than watching a child die of starvation while food is prevented from entering the country and violence hinders its distribution. Even where food is available, many people simply can't afford it. Malnourished children are succumbing to preventable diseases because life-saving medicines are delayed at ports and checkpoints.

"This dire situation is entirely manmade; a direct result of the escalation of the violence that started almost four years ago. The only way to end the suffering is to end the conflict and the consultation in Sweden between the warring parties is a promising sign. We call on all countries that have influence on the parties to this conflict to increase the pressure on them to bring an end to this war. If they fail to do so, children's lives will continue to be lost on a large scale and history will judge all those involved."

ENDS

To donate to Save the Children NZ's Yemen response, please visit:

www.savethechildren.org.nz/donate]

Save the Children have spokespeople available in Yemen and the UK. To arrange interviews please contact: Ally Clelland, Communications Specialist, Save the Children NZ, phone 022 531 9514 or email ally.clelland@scnz.org.nz

About Save the Children

Save the Children believes every child deserves a future. In New Zealand and around the world, we work every day to give children a healthy start in life, the opportunity to learn and protection from harm. When crisis strikes, and children are most vulnerable, we are always among the first to respond and the last to leave. We ensure children's unique needs are met and their voices are heard. We deliver lasting results for millions of children, including those hardest to reach.

We do whatever it takes for children – every day and in times of crisis – transforming their lives and the future we share.