

# YEMEN SIG UPDATE MAY 2019

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## Together for Peace in Yemen

Birmingham workshop, Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2019



### Next steps

Some of the concrete ideas generated on the day included:

How to support tomorrows Yemen with peace building and reconciliation

The engagement of women, children and young people

Exploring opportunities to work with local Yemeni Civil Societies to improve mental wellbeing during and after the war.

### Recommendations

- Develop a loose national network based on the suggestions from the Birmingham 'Together for Peace in Yemen' event
- The first tasks would be to understand what is happening on the ground in local communities in Yemen
- Meet once or twice a year, depending on the availability of the resourced and leadership
- Encourage small groups to work together on specific areas (the 5 themes identified in this workshop could be a starting point) in the UK and liaise with civil societies in Yemen
- Discuss with interested Humanitarian Organisations working in Yemen if they will be interested to support this national Yemeni diaspora network
- The British Yemeni Society is ideally placed to take the organisational role for this network to avoid create another organisation with constitution, admin, finance etc. which is time consuming

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## Conference presentations

Keele University, Students friends of MSF: 22 Feb 2019 **Health Crisis in Yemen: How can the diaspora get involved?** Dr Ann Hoskins, Taher Ali Qassim, Liz Marchant

Birmingham University at the Health Professionals for Yemen annual conference, 6 April 2019: **Health Crisis in Yemen, Capacity building in Yemen's health system** Taher Ali Qassim, Dr Ann Hoskins,

Leeds University: Yemen: Conflict and Catastrophe, 29 April 2019, **The Yemen conflict and public health** Dr Ann Hoskins, Taher Ali Qassim

## Yemen Mobile Health Project



The Yemen Mobile Health Project is a preventative public health response to diarrheal diseases and cholera in Yemen due to war. It aims to contribute to the prevention of diarrheal diseases and cholera by developing, testing, and disseminating a range of messages with text and images. The project will use WhatsApp as a medium to communicate these messages in areas of Yemen affected by or likely to be affected by cholera. The images cover; how cholera is spread, symptoms of disease, ways to stop further spread of the disease, and the treatment with rehydration solutions.

The project got underway in late 2018 and is in the set up and testing phase. 19 messages have been developed with supporting artwork, a logo and mission statement have been developed. We are currently building a website and developing our presence on social media (Facebook and twitter). Materials have been developed to support fundraising activities including a full project brief, project timeline, costings, and risk register. We are approaching a variety of organisations for support and seed monies.

UK testing of the messages and process will be undertaken in May with an aim of getting feedback on the messages and images from approximately 50-100 UK based Yemeni diaspora. Work will be undertaken to amend any messages or images based on feedback before planning for a pilot with approximately 500 people in Yemen. This is planned for summer 2019. Sadly there is a cholera outbreak again in many parts of Yemen. The security situation continues to deteriorate, resulting in further destruction of the infrastructure, the absence of health services and the ongoing war.

For more information on cholera see links below

<https://reliefweb.int/report/yemen/yemen-humanitarian-update-covering-7-21-march-2019-issue-5-enar>

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