



Yemeni woman with a brochure of a healthcare facility about the importance of psychological support for children.

LOCATION

The Hague Humanity Hub
Fluwelen Burgwal 58
2511 CJ The Hague

DATE AND TIME

December 2, 09.00 – 14:10

Would you like to attend this conference on Yemen?

Please send a message with your name and contact details to sam.geus@cordaid.org.

CORDAID IN YEMEN

Since 2018, together with a number of Yemeni partner organizations, Cordaid has been working in Yemen on emergency aid and healthcare, with a substantial programme for mother and child care in the northern province of Damar.

In the capital, Cordaid also supports partner FCDF in providing mental care and psychosocial support services to people with mental disorders. In four clinics employees are trained to recognize and address psychological problems. Volunteers are also trained to identify and, if necessary, refer people in psychological distress.

Together with our Yemeni partners we also provide emergency aid, including food, water, hygiene, shelter, and financial support. And we help to prevent the further spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

CONFERENCE ON YEMEN

GOING BEYOND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

The war in Yemen has caused the largest humanitarian crisis in the world. The conflict escalated in 2015 and today 21 million people need urgent assistance in the form of food, water, shelter, and healthcare. At the same time, women play an indispensable role in the resolution of the conflict.

How to efficiently address the suffering in this torn country at the southernmost tip of the Arabian Peninsula? And what need to be the priorities of the international community in this regard?

To answer these and other questions, Cordaid, in collaboration with Yemeni partner organisations Family Counseling and Development Foundation (FCDF) and Yamaan Foundation, is organizing a conference on Yemen on December 2, 2021, in the Hague Humanity Hub. The name of the event is *Conference on Yemen: going beyond humanitarian assistance*.

Stronger position for women, safer society

The purpose is to draw attention to the political and humanitarian situation in a country that is largely forgotten by western media. Experts, donors, journalists and policymakers will focus on the main theme of the conference: the position of women in the Yemeni war.

Women and children suffer the most from the consequences of war and often cannot rely on essential health care, such as trauma processing or care during pregnancy or childbirth.

Women also play an indispensable role in the resolution of the conflict. The assumption is that a stronger position for women ensures a safer society.

“Yemen deserves our attention,” says Sam Geus, organizer of the event. “The needs are enormous. In addition, the conflict is extremely complex. If we want to provide aid effectively, we will have to better understand the context in Yemen. This conference will contribute to that.”



SPEAKERS



Mrs. Sahar Ghanem is the Yemeni ambassador to the Netherlands alongside the non-resident ambassador to Norway and Sweden. She is also the Permanent Representative of Yemen to the Organization for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and Yemen's Governor to the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC). She is a member of the Advisory board of Women In International Security Netherlands. And she was the coordinator of the Women Ambassadors Group in the Netherlands in 2020.

Sahar calls herself a political activist and feminist. She has actively participated in various programmes, seminars, interviews and conferences nationally and internationally, including a 3-year Dutch programme "Female leaders from the MENA Region" and the sixtieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (UN). She has also taken part in the Oslo Forum in 2016.



Mr. Peter Derrek Hof has worked for almost 30 years for the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. After having occupied multiple positions within the Ministry in The Hague, Brussels, and New York, he became the head of Development Cooperation in Paramaribo and after that head of the Political department of the Dutch Embassy in Paris. After working as Deputy Director of Administration in The Hague, he was appointed as Ambassador of the Kingdom of The Netherlands to the Republics of Costa Rica, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. In 2020 he started as Dutch Ambassador to Yemen, based in Amman. Peter Derrek holds a degree in Political Science and International Relations.



Dr. Bilqis Jubari is the founder and chair of the Family Counselling and Development Foundation in Yemen. She has served as a lecturer and psychology professor at Sana'a University since 1998 and held various educational, counselling, and managerial positions at knowledge organisations in the USA and Yemen. She was consultant and therapist at INTERSOS; consultant and trainer at the Social Fund for Development (SFD); and consultant and therapist at Moassat Ossrati. She participates in several Egyptian and Yemeni academic institutions and NGOs, promoting mental health and women's empowerment.



Dr. Ashraf Badr is the Country Director of Marie Stopes Yemen, and the founder and chairman of Yamaan Foundation for Health and Social Development, which was established in 2009 in Yemen. He has an academic background in pharmaceuticals, and in business administration. He has more than 20 years' experience in marketing and management field and has 15 years' experience working with NGOs. He gained considerable experience in behaviour change communication, community mobilisation, and advocacy. He developed a solid experience in health financing and output-based aid. This enabled him to turn Yamaan into Yemen's lead health specialized NGO, and Marie Stopes Yemen into the lead sexual and reproductive health service provider in the country.



Laila Al-Zwaini is an independent scholar-practitioner, former UN diplomat, policy advisor, docu-researcher, and media commentator from Dutch-Iraqi origin. She specialises in rule of law, sharia, tribal conflict settlement, constitutional and criminal law, Islamic religious authority, and human (women's) rights in the Arab and Muslim world, with a focus on Yemen, Iraq, and Afghanistan. From 2007-2009 she headed the Rule of Law Unit of UNAMA in Afghanistan. Between 1996 and 2006, she spent extensive periods in Yemen on rule of law-related field research and projects. She also advised various justice sector missions to Yemen, among others for the Netherlands, the UK, and the United Nations. She currently initiates pilots under her action-research programme *Imagine Madaniya!*, a novel approach towards building a civil state in the Arab/Muslim world, rooted in the Arabic concept of *madaniya* (civilisation, 'civitas'). Her publications include *The Rule of Law in Yemen: Prospects and Challenges* (2012) and *Legal Pluralism in the Arab World* (1999).



Thana Farooq is a Yemeni photographer and educator based in the Netherlands. She works with photography, texts, sound, and the physicality of the image itself as a way to respond to the changes that have been shaping and defining her life and sense of belonging, both in Yemen and the Netherlands.

Thana was a recipient of the 2018 inaugural Open Society Foundation Fellowship Grant and Exhibition and the 2019 Arab Documentary Fund. She received her BA in Government and International Relations from Clark University US, and an MA in Documentary Photography and Photojournalism from The University of Westminster London. Thana also completed an MA in Photography and Society at The Royal Academy of Art in The Hague. She is currently teaching there. Last year Thana published her first book “I don’t recognise me in the shadows” which is currently on display in several libraries around the world.

MODERATOR



Nicolien Zuijdgheest is an Arabist. She works as facilitator, trainer, and coach for local NGOs, development & humanitarian organizations, (semi-)government and international organizations. She focuses on organizational development, team development, process guidance, staff care and stress management & trauma prevention.

Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support (MHPSS) and Sexual Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) are recurring work fields. She has worked with survivors of war violence in Iraq/ Germany and has a long working experience in guiding organizations that support female victims of violence in North Africa and the Middle East.

More info: www.nicolien.com

She is connected to het [Grote Midden Oosten Platform](#).

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE VIDEOS

UNDP: “from Yemen with love”

Six Yemeni women about the position of women in Yemen: Khalil Bamatraf (humanitarian and health activist) from Hadramout, Olla Alsakkaf (activist, researcher and local mediator) from Taiz, Rofieda Shaibani (consultant in human development sector) from Aden, Maha Basodan (lecturer, faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences) from Aden, Sara Aljunaidi (social activist) from Aden and Dalia Qassem (social activist and director of a local ngo) from Hodaida.

Young people behind cameras (Yemen):

We are young Yemeni’s from the city of Ta’izz. We are stuck in a war that has no logic and that is swallowing everyone. This situation is destroying us. But we feel we have to keep fighting this depression back and to raise our voices.

To represent not only the dead, the hardly-alive and all the victims of this massive war, but also the active young people in our country. Despite being surrounded by the horror and the bullets, we keep trying to contribute to restoring and building peace. We are part of the youth-led organization Youth Without Borders Organization for



From left to right: Saleem (23), Hussam (23), Maimonah (21), Hanan (19) and Yaseen (19)

Development (YWBOD). We joined Cordaid’s programme ‘Young people behind cameras – Stories of Impact’ to learn how to film and tell you our story of young people in Yemen. We’re trying to do something before this war takes us away.

PROGRAMME

09:00 - 09:15 WELCOME

09:15 - 09:30 **Opening by Cordaid**

09:30 - 10:40 **Addressing the political humanitarian situation**

SPEAKERS

- Yemen expert **Laila al-Zwaini**
- Videos of Yemeni women about the position of women in Yemen
- Dutch ambassador to Yemen **Mr. Peter Derrek Hof**
- Yemeni ambassador to the Netherlands **Mrs. Sahar Ghanem**
- Video Young people behind cameras

10:40 - 11:10 **Beyond humanitarian assistance: the importance of mental health and sexual and reproductive health in Yemen**

SPEAKERS

- Founder and chairwoman of FCDF **Bilqis Jubari**
- Founder and chairman of Yamaan Foundation **Ashraf Badr**

11:10 - 11:25 **Presentation by Thana Farooq about art in the context of Yemeni women during the war**

PRACTICAL INFO ON WORKSHOPS

11:25 - 11:40 SHORT BREAK

11:40 - 12:40 **Workshops**

- The importance of availability and accessibility of MHPSS in Yemen and the way forward
- Exploring the multiple challenges of SRHR in Yemen and lessons learned on successful approaches

12:40 - 13:25 **Discussion workshops and how to move forward**

Led by **Ashraf Badr** and **Bilqis Jubari**

13:25 - 14:10 LUNCH