



Brussels, 8 May 2025
(OR. en)

8745/25

COHAFA 29
GENDER 35
MOG 44
YEMEN 3
RELEX 552
INTER-REP 61

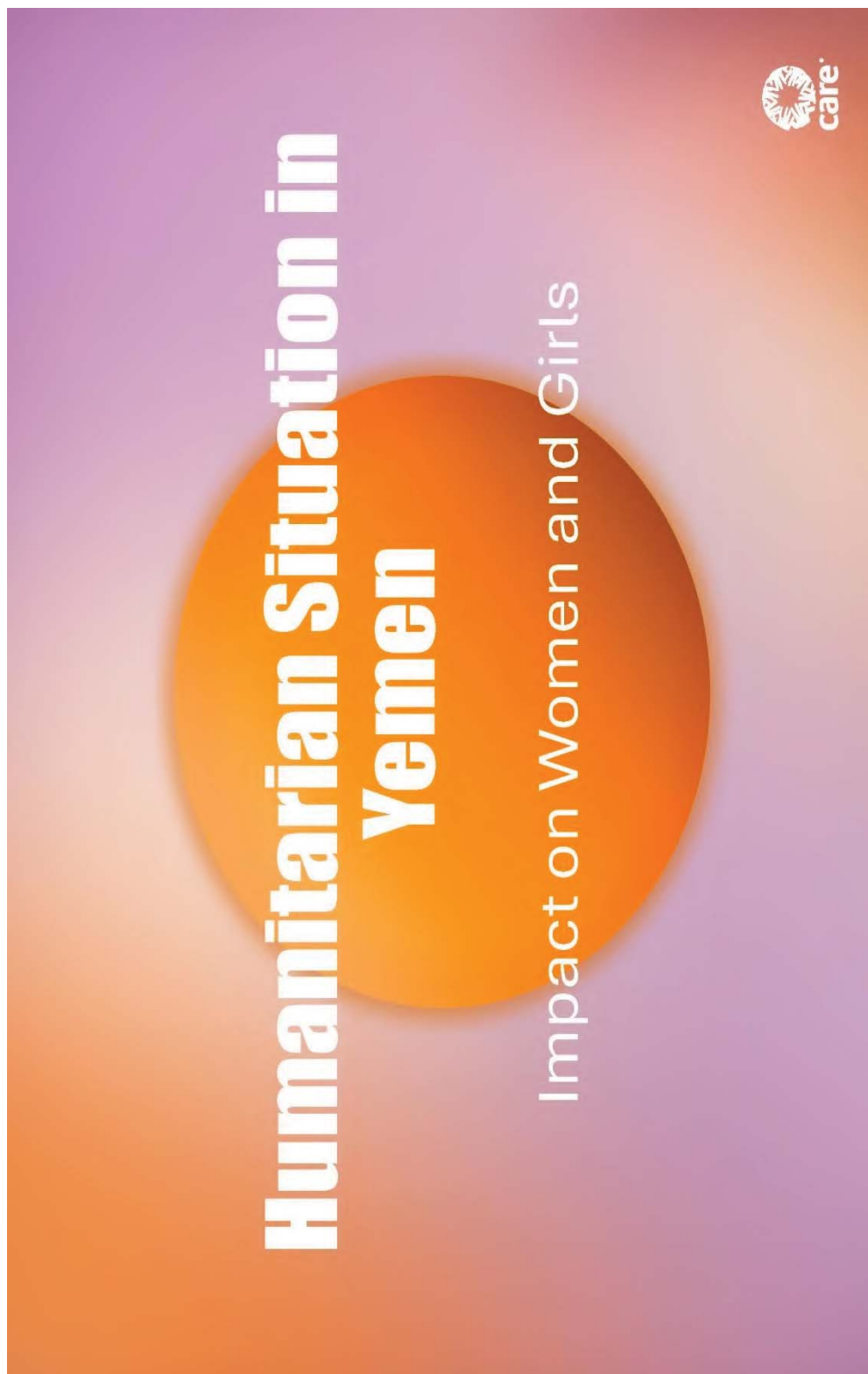
NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Forgotten and neglected crises - situation of women and girls - presentation by CARE International

Following the meeting of the Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA) on 23 and 24 April 2025, delegations will find in Annex the presentation made by CARE International¹².

¹ CARE International Aisbl, identification number in the EU Transparency Register: 90237823189-97.

² This document contains a presentation by an external stakeholder and the views expressed therein are solely those of the third party it originates from. This document cannot be regarded as stating an official position of the Council. It does not reflect the views of the Council or of its members.





19.5 million people in need of humanitarian assistance

Including 9.6 million
women and girls



In 2025 after 10 years of conflict

32%

Girls married under the age of 18

60%

Births without skilled birth attendant

40%

Women lack antenatal care

1.5 million

Girls out of school

6.9 million

Women and girls at risk of GBV

1.3 million

Malnourished pregnant women and new mothers

25%

4.6 million IDPs include women heading households

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The humanitarian context as of January 2025

US funding = over 50% Yemen's humanitarian response in 2024

- **Stop Work Order** followed by **termination** of all US funded projects in Yemen (lifesaving interventions for millions across the country).
- **FTO designation** in northern governorates controlled by DFA
 - Absence of **humanitarian waivers/MSA compliance**
 - Disruption in **banking services, imports, humanitarian operations** (across whole of Yemen)
 - **2/3 population** reside in areas under DFA control
- **Declining funding** trend impacting:
 - prospects for **peace roadmap**
 - **resilience building** and ability to gain **self-reliance**.
 - Loss of hard-earned gains over recent decade with irreversible negative trends feared.
 - Yemen HNRP only **7%** funded while needs will increase, impacting those most vulnerable, including women and girls.



FTO Designation



- Compliance with US counterterrorism laws, including Material Support Act (MSA).
- Absence of humanitarian waivers.
- Disruptions in humanitarian operations, banking services, import of humanitarian items.
- Impact of designation not limited to areas under DFA control – affects entire country.
- Example: financial institutions' risk assessments not isolating areas. Restrictions across all of Yemen, making fund transfers, payments and operations more complex nationwide.
- **Important to note:** Areas under DFA control equate to roughly 1/3 of Yemen's territory – however this area is home to **about 2/3 of the country's population** – amplifying the **humanitarian consequences** of the designation.

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Declining Funding



- Impacting prospects for **peace roadmap**.
- Impacting **resilience building** and ability to gain **self-reliance**.
- Loss of **hard-earned gains** over recent decade with irreversible negative trends feared.
- Yemen HNRP only **8%** funded while needs will increase, impacting those most vulnerable, including women and girls.

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Initial findings of impact on protection services

Recent survey by Protection Cluster



- Up to **75** critical protection projects impacted in **20** governorates and **254** districts.
- **\$24 million** in **protection funding** suspended, cutting off urgent assistance for IDPs, women, children, and other vulnerable groups.
- **More than 2 million people** at risk.
- Disruption of **protection monitoring** affects over **838,000 people**, limiting detection, identifying and response to urgent risks for most vulnerable.
- Over **32,000 people** including **7,000** women and girls will lose access to **legal aid and legal documentation**.
- More than **8,000 individuals** at risk of **eviction**, including women and children.

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Initial findings of impact on protection services

Recent survey by Protection Cluster



- Over **920,000** women and girls in high-risk areas losing access to **safe spaces**, **economic empowerment programs**, and **GBV services**.
- Over **183,000 affected persons** (including **153,000 women and girls**) will no longer benefit from community protection networks (detection, identification, response).

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Initial findings of impact on protection services

Recent survey by Protection Cluster

- **Hundreds of thousands of individuals, including women and children**, affected by the disruption of **mental health and psychosocial support**.
- Could lead to sharp increase in **self-harm and suicide risks**, particularly among **thousands of women, girls, and children** with no access to support services – resulting in **long-term psychological harm**.
- **Safe spaces** for GBV survivors have shut down, cutting off **trauma support** and increasing the risk of **PTSD, depression**, and **suicide** among those already in distress.

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Initial findings of impact on protection services

Recent survey by Protection Cluster

- At least **1.5 million women and girls** are at risk of losing lifesaving reproductive health services, increasing maternal mortality rates.
- In DFA-controlled areas, the disruption of **mine action** activities, likely contributing to an increase in mine-related casualties, including many women and girls.
- Hard-gained **community trust** in humanitarian organizations is declining by further complicating efforts to re-establish protection programming. (important in reaching women and girls).

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Rise in Malnutrition Cases

(MSF report)

“What we are seeing is an average of **a quarter of babies under six months old are actually suffering from malnourishment**. This is largely linked to the fact that they are **not being breastfed by their mothers**.”

“It can be very difficult for them to produce enough breast milk. Exclusive breastfeeding rates in Yemen are extremely low—as low as **2%** in some areas and even **0%** in certain governorates.”

MSF has recorded a **90%** rise in **measles** cases across its facilities in Yemen over the past three years, highlighting the **deadly link between malnutrition and disease**.

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Women-led Organizations

- Relying on partnerships, sub-grants, or coordinated support from INGOs and UN, **WLOs** are now severely affected.
- With funding's declining trend, challenges already existed for WLOs but now many facing potential closure due to funding shortfalls and operational disruptions.
- WLOs are critical actors in provision of services to women and girls including in hard-to-reach and challenging locations.

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Recommendations and messages



- The humanitarian situation in Yemen requires urgent attention as it continues to deteriorate, especially for women and girls. **Aid must be driven by needs, based on humanitarian principles and the negative trend needs to be reversed before irreversible.**
- Civil society, including international and national NGOs, alongside the UN, must be **supported and enabled to deliver where needs are greatest including immediate response and longer-term recovery.**
- Protection of women and girls cannot be jeopardized as the consequences mean more risk and harm to those in dire need of support. The many examples of **good practices need to be scaled up and supported.**
- **Flexible and multi-year funding** means support to people in Yemen, including women and girls, allowing space for innovative approaches, agility, responsiveness and impact.

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Yemenis, including **women and girls**, long for peace and stability, yet pay the greatest price for the humanitarian catastrophe ahead if needs are not met.



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