



Brussels, 11 February 2022  
(OR. en)

6204/22

COHAFA 17  
DEVGEN 28  
MAMA 29  
MOG 9  
RELEX 180  
INTER-REP 24

**NOTE**

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
On:	9 February 2022
To:	Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA)
Subject:	Obstacles to humanitarian aid in North Africa and the Middle East: Politicization of aid in a context of multiplicity of actors - presentation by Geneva Call

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Following the COHAFA meeting of 9 February, delegations will find in Annex presentation made by Geneva Call<sup>(1)(2)</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Appel de Genève / Geneva Call (Geneva Call), identification number in the EU Transparency Register: 302979911822-71.

<sup>2</sup> 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.



## ACCESS OBSTACLES in MENA

COHAFA – February 9, 2022



## The Case of YEMEN

Mohammed Hassan,  
Country Director - Yemen



## Mission

Geneva Call is a neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian organisation.

In situations of armed conflict, its mission is to strengthen the respect for **humanitarian norms** by armed actors, to enhance the **protection of civilians**, while also facilitating efforts to promote **peace** and **stability**.

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## Humanitarian Situation Overview

- Worst humanitarian crisis in the world
- In its 7<sup>th</sup> year – 26 March is 8<sup>th</sup> year anniversary
- UN estimates over 377k death by end of 2021
- 20.7m need humanitarian n protection assistance (over 60% Yemeni population)
- Over 40% (8.3m pin) in HardtoReach areas
- Over 4m IDPs

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## HUMANITARIAN OBSTACLES



## IMPACT OF ACCESS CONSTRAINTS

- Total reported constraints 511 (49%) increase from July/Aug to Sept/Oct
- 5.9m affected by restriction of movement
- 6.6m affected by sub-agreement delay
- USD172m need aid not delivered
- Donors hold back to fund due to low spending
- 2.51B/3.85B needed funds secured
- Resulted in surge of malnutrition and threat of famine

## Politicisation of Aid

- A major humanitarian obstacle is the politicisation of aid
- Multitude of actors – divergent political & economic interests
- Gatekeepers, incl. armed groups, restrict access to some portions of populations
- Aid is used by some authorities as a tool to demand loyalty
- Regional & international political interests at play



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## Complexity of actors

- Over 170 humanitarian actors in Yemen
- Huge response - \$3.85B (\$2.51B secured)
- Myriad armed groups – Explained in next slide
- Complex and layered administrative processes
  - IRG vs. DFA
  - National, governorate, district, village
  - Civilian vs. armed groups
- Overlapping armed groups West Coast, Taiz and Aden
  - Duplicate administrative process
  - Security travel movement approvals
  - Checkpoints
- Regional influences on ground realities

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## Complexity of Armed Actors Explained

- The fallacy of dichotomous conflict between IRG and AA - masks myriad armed groups
- Under internationally recognized government (IRG)
  - Southern transitional council (STC)
  - Joint forces resistance (JFR)
  - Taiz Axis Forces (TAF)
  - Security belt
  - Storm Brigades
  - Counter terrorism brigades
  - Elite Hadhrmaut, Shabwa and Mehra forces

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## Geneva Call contribution to open up access

- We facilitate ANSA & community dialogues to open access
- We discreetly advocate/confront armed groups to respect humanitarian principles, protection of civilians etc.
- We negotiate with armed groups to open up access to particular populations
  - Example Tur Al-Baha
  - Example in Crater, Aden
- Actively promote respect of IHL by armed groups

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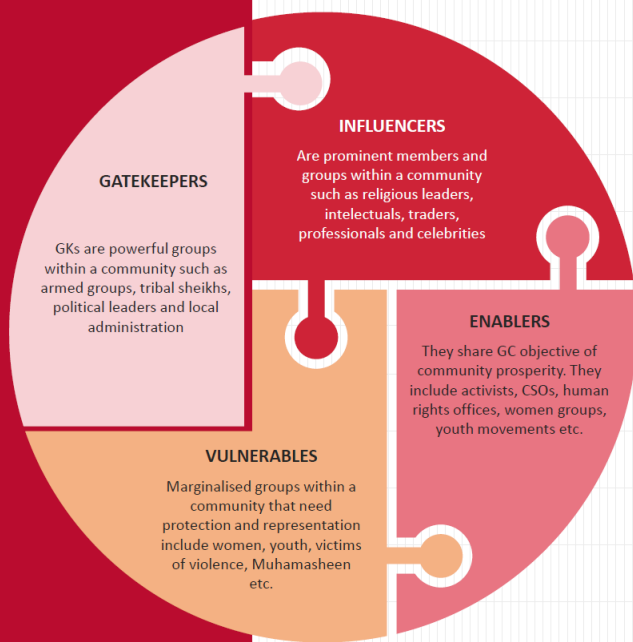


## GENEVA CALL ARMED GROUP ENGAGEMENT THEORY OF CHANGE



## GENEVA CALL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MODEL

In GC, community engagement is a deliberate process of identification and analysis of gatekeepers, influencers, vulnerable and enablers within particular community. The purpose is to understand the relationships and articulate the importance of building a collaborative platform where all community groups are represented and able to identify and address community issues internally without eroding the power of the gatekeepers and providing full protection to vulnerable members. This platform facilitates engage with armed groups, governorate and national level authorities and interaction with national platforms to represent the aspirations of the particular community.



## How can the EU & its Member States help?

- A unified EU/donor messaging when engaging authorities on issues identified by HA in the field
- Use political & diplomatic influence to roll back tit-for-tat visa spat between Aden & Sana'a and to streamline visa and permits processes within IRG
- EU/Members to advocate rescinding tax on humanitarian goods
- Donor diplomatic pressure on AA to rescind Mahram demand on female humanitarian workers
- Advocate for the removal of intrusive clauses in PAs

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# Any questions?

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