



Children in Armed Conflict

"Rights, Health and Wellbeing"

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Impact Of Violence And War On Yemeni Children: Identifying The Information Gap

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Introduction

- Recent estimates indicate that there are more than **300,000** children under the age of eighteen fighting in armed conflicts, with tens of thousands under the age of fifteen in **60 countries** including **Yemen**.
- other aspects are the affected child who are not participated as a soldier including young children
- Yemen facing complex emergency including multiple wars, epidemics and famine



In 2017, about 2,122 children have been recruited as soldiers in Yemen (UNICEF)

Source: <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20171228-unicef-2100-child-soldiers-recruited-in-yemen/>

Introduction

Barbara JS (2006) identified **10 types** of impact of war on children.

1. loss of care due to loss of parents
2. a girl who is raped may be marginalized by her society
3. Death
4. injury
5. disability
6. illness
7. *Rape and prostitution for subsistence*
8. *Psychological suffering*
9. *Moral and spiritual impacts*
10. *Social and cultural losses*

Objective

The aim of this study to highlight on the impact of the wars on Yemeni children and explore areas that need for further studies.

Methods

literature review of studies and reports concerning the impact of the war on Yemeni children using the forms of impact identified by [Barbara JS](#) (2006) as formwork for this study and describe what were documented and what are in need for investigation

Findings

Areas of impact not yet addressed

- Marginalized girls who is raped
- Loss of care due to loss of parents
- *Rape and prostitution for subsistence*
- *Moral and spiritual impacts*

Findings

Types of impact were studied

1. **Death** (three studies)

One study reported that **at least 6** children killed or maimed daily **and 934** children killed during 2016 as a result of "grave violations.

- **UNICEF report** in 2016 reported that **1 in 20** children die before the age of five in Yemen comparing with **1 in 32** children die before the age of five in middle east and north Africa region before escalation of the war and be worst during the current crises.

Death



People search for survivors under the rubble of houses destroyed by airstrikes Sana'a , Septemebr 2015

Source: https://www.huffpost.com/entry/Yemen-war-photos_

Caution: this road could hidden mine

Findings: 2. Injury

- There were 7644 children (9%) have trauma out of 84495 traumatic cases reported in 2014. (**The annual statistical report 2014**),
- in 2015/ 2016 a total of 1,356 children injured
- more than 5,000 children killed or injured in the violence with an average of five children every day since March 2015” (UNICEF.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jan/16/yemen-war-children-dead-injured-malnourished>



A Yemeni boy comforts an injured boy at a hospital in Sanaa after he was injured when two suicide bombers hit a mosque on September 2, 2015.

Source: <https://foreignpolicy.com/2017/07/20/4000-children-have-been-killed-or-wounded-in-yemen-war-saudi-arabia-houthi/>

Findings: 3. Disability

One study:

(<https://www.hrw.org/news/2015/12/03/people-disabilities-added-risk-war-displacement>). in this report; The UN

[estimates that 21.2 million people](#)

– 82 percent of the Yemeni population – require some form of humanitarian assistance, of whom [3 million are people with disabilities](#)



Sami and his brother Ammar were badly injured in an airstrike on a wedding they were attending in April 2018.

Source:

<https://www.savethechildren.org/us/about-us/media-and-news/2019-press-releases/every-month-yemeni-children-killed>

Findings

4. Illness

2.5 million children face the threat of diarrhoeal diseases and over **320,000** are at risk of severe acute malnutrition. In addition, over **1.3 million** children are at risk of acute respiratory tract infections and **2.6 million** of them under the age of 15 are at risk of measles. and **10.2 million**: Children at risk of "going without safe drinking water and sanitation



Illness

- In Yemen, Humanitarians warn children will be worst hit in what is being forecast as the [world's most lethal famine for 100 years](#) with up to 14 million people at risk, according to the UN.

- Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2018/oct/16/enormity-yemen-famine-initially-underestimated>



Illness: Multi Epidemics

- **Cholera** and **diphtheria** are the emerging epidemics in the years 2017 and 2018 among ongoing epidemics of **dengue**, **malaria** and other endemic diseases in Yemen.
- **Cholera**: 1,145,491 suspected cases and 2379 deaths (during the period from 27 April 2017 to 19 August 2018)
- **Diphtheria (2017)** : 433 probable diphtheria cases and 43 deaths (24% of the cases are children less than 5 years) during the period from



A mother sits with her sons while they are treated at a cholera centre in Sana'a, 2017

Source:

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2017/oct/12/yemen-cholera-outbreak-worst-in-history-1-million-cases-by-end-of-year>

5. Psychological impact (two studies)

- *A study about war in Saad'a reported that* The study showed that **45 percent** of respondents feared loud sounds and some **22 percent** of respondents suffered from enuresis (bed-wetting) while sleeping. Experts say in normal times this rate should not exceed 15 percent. Some six percent of respondents suffered from enuresis while awake. This is an indication of their deteriorated psychological condition and their inability to control the functions of their bodies, and about five percent of the respondents said they sometimes faint upon seeing armed people or hearing thunder or bullets.

Psychological impact

([Alyahri A](#), [Goodman R](#))

- The overall prevalence of DSM-IV disorders was 15.7% in Yemen , anxiety disorders were the commonest diagnostic grouping in Yemen followed by behavioural disorders (7.1%).

Findings

Social and cultural losses (UNICEF)

- The social and cultural aspects regarding displacement consequences of the war.
- Displacement levels have jumped from 334,000 at the end of 2014 to 2.4 million in February 2016.² Half of the displaced are children.

Conclusions

- Four areas about impact of war and violence on Yemeni children were not addressed at all and in need for exploratory studies.
- The other six areas were addressed but with limited sources and not systematically investigated.
- Despite these limitations the above mentioned results give us clue to understand the ***tragedy of Yemeni children as a consequence of the ongoing civil war.***