

Issued by the Gulf Institute for Democracy and Human Rights  
**AUGUST 2018**

**GIHR**  
GULF INSTITUTE  
for Democracy and Human Rights

# YEMEN

## #Children\_under\_Fire



## CONTENTS

Overview .....	02
Food security .....	03
Low Health Services .....	06
Spread of Epidemics .....	08
Children Victims of Armed Conflict .....	09
Malnutrition .....	12
Embryos and Neonatal Deformities .....	14
Education .....	16
Social Care for Children .....	19
-Juvenile Care Centres	
-Safe Childhood Centres for the Protection and Rehabilitation	
of Street Children	
-The Orphanages	
Internal Displacement .....	20
Obstructing Humanitarian Supplies and Assistance .....	21
Recommendations .....	23

## OVERVIEW

Yemenis have been increasingly suffering as a result of the ongoing military operations led by Saudi Arabia in Yemen, since March 2015. The escalating aggressive acts and practices have directly reflected on the lives of civilians, deprived them of their most basic essential needs and infringed many of their human rights.

The coalition continues to impose a comprehensive siege on all Yemen's entries, seaports and airports. Apart from their control and blockade over most of the seaports and airports, the coalition have also imposed tough restrictions on the entry of basic commodities, including humanitarian imports such as food and medicine.

Most airports are under the control of the Saudi-led coalition and they operate under their supervision. The rest of the airports, which are under the Houthis' authority, have been fully closed as Sanaa International Airport, where air traffic has been completely halted, since August 2016, although it is considered the main port of Yemen's air traffic, serving annually more than 8 million passengers. This closure has been regarded as a collective punishment against Yemenis, turned Yemen into a large prison and created an unspeakable humanitarian tragedy.

Further, the coalition forces have banned some journalists from entering Yemen and also prevented them from boarding the United Nations' plane, which limits the news coverage and

imposes a media blackout. In May, the ban also extended to restrict the work of the human rights organisations\*.

In August 2016, President Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi issued a verdict to transfer Yemen's Central Bank from Sanaa; the capital, to Aden province, which is controlled by the coalition. Since then, the payment for public employees' salaries has been interrupted despite it was going on normally since the onset of the war against Yemen.

Since the very beginning of June 2018, the tragic scene in Yemen has been worsened due to the Saudi-led coalition's new military operations to control the coastal province of Hodeida; the only active maritime ports for imports and humanitarian aid to millions of people.

Certainly, children are the most affected category because of the conflict's continuation and the mounting of violence. The deteriorating humanitarian situation and the collapse of public services have deprived millions of children of adequate food and private health care. A large number of school-children have not been able to complete their education and work instead to help their families provide daily maintenance. In addition, thousands of children are at risk of trafficking and joining armed groups.

---

\*Amnesty International report on Yemen 2017/2018



According to UN indicators until June 2017, the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance has increased to 24.1 million out of 27.4 million; the total population. Nearly 90% of the population currently need humanitarian assistance to secure their basic needs of food, water, education, health and housing.

Approximately around 19 million people are in urgent need of food aid; 7 million among them are at risk of famine. This indicates a dramatic decline in the proportion of food insecure, raising the total number of people who are having difficulty accessing their food and having adequate meals.

60% of Yemen's families have failed to provide adequate food for their members and have resorted to searching for other alternatives to provide food and to using means that harm their health. The most prominent aspect of this is the decrease in daily food consumption, the lack of nutritional value and the consumption of cheap food that has near expiration date\*.

Moreover, there has been a sharp decline in accessing safe potable water, with the coverage rate falling from 57% to 10%. This decline has been

caused due to the deterioration of water supply and sanitation sector as a result of the power outage, the lack of fuel, the high average cost of the productive unit, the high maintenance cost by 80% and the inability to meet the financial obligations of the workers in the sector.

Water utilities have been damaged, and water projects in the public, mixed and private sectors were halted (six local enterprises have been stopped). The environmental situation in cities and urban areas has also deteriorated due to the accumulation of solid waste and garbage.

The number of people who cannot access potable water is estimated at 20.4 million; 14.5 million of whom are in need of water and 8.2 million are in dire need of water supply. The increase has touched 52% since the onset of the military operations, compared to the previous years.

There are currently about 3 million of internally displaced persons (IDPs), including those living with relatives or in public buildings or in the open air without shelter, amid the increase of the population misery and the cost of living. Many households are currently experiencing high levels of food insecurity and undernutrition.

---

\* Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)



# → FOOD SECURITY



The number of people in need of humanitarian assistance until June 2017: 24.1 million, nearly 90% of the population



19 million people are in urgent need of food aid; 7 million among them are at risk of famine



60% of Yemen's families have failed to provide adequate food for their members and are using other alternatives that harm their health



Safe potable water covers 10% of the population



20.4 million people cannot access potable water



14.5 million of whom are in need of water and 8.2 million are in dire need of water supply

➔ THE SHARP DECLINE IN ACCESSING SAFE POTABLE WATER (COVERAGE RATE FALL FROM 57% TO 10%) HAS BEEN CAUSED DUE TO THE DETERIORATION OF WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATIONS SECTOR; AS A RESULT OF:

- 1 Power outage and lack of fuel
- 2 High average cost of the productive unit
- 3 High maintenance cost by 80%
- 4 Inability to meet the financial obligations of the workers
- 5 Damage of water utilities & halting water projects in all sectors
- 6 Deterioration of the environmental situation in cities & urban areas due to the accumulation of solid waste & garbage

GDHR  
GULF INSTITUTE  
for democracy and human rights







## LOW HEALTH SERVICES

According to Yemen's Humanitarian Response Plan 2017, more than 21.5 million people have lost access to basic health care, including 8.8 million people living in areas lacking the most basic health services in the absence of various medical supplies and aids.

Approximately 70% of the health facilities are completely unable to provide their services to the patients. The statistics indicate the destruction of 412 health facilities, the damage of 63 ambulances and the destruction of two manufacturers that supply oxygen. Besides, more than 3,000 specialists and foreign technicians have left to their countries, namely 95% of foreign workers in various medical specialities. More than 40% of local medics; especially in Aden, Lahj, Abyan, Sana'a, Taiz, Saada, were also forced to move their health centres.

The scarcity of drugs and chronic diseases' treatment solutions, such as renal failure, have added to the misery of more than 6,000 patients, who require 500,000 kidney dialysis. Accordingly, between 2 to 3 patients

die every day. The same is true of the 120,000 patients with diabetes, as well as thousands of people with cancer and thalassemia.

According to Human Rights Watch, in August 2016, the coalition have suspended all commercial flights to Sanaa, causing "serious repercussions for patients in need of urgent medical treatment abroad."\* Local reports indicate that approximately 95,000 patients face death due to airport's closure and the travel ban imposed upon them to receive treatment, particularly patients with cancer; kidney failure; heart, liver and other incurable diseases.

In January 2018, Yemen's Ministry of Health announced that the death cases of patients who were in urgent need for treatment abroad were 15,740 cases. The ministry added that at least one in ten critical cases has died; having to travel aboard for treatment by land for long hours to reach the airports of Seiyun and Aden.

---

\*World Report 2018 - Human Rights Watch

More than 21.5 million people have lost access to basic health care, including 8.8 million people living in areas lacking the most basic health care



70% of health facilities are completely unable to provide their services

95% of foreign workers in various medical specialties left to their countries



More than 40% of local medics were forced to move their health centers

More than 6000 renal failure patients are suffering because of scarcity of drugs, 2 to 3 patients die every day



120,000 patients with diabetes and thousands of people with cancer and thalassemia suffer due to scarcity of drugs

95,000 patients face death due to airport's closure



15,740 death cases of patients who were in urgent need for treatment abroad

1 in 10 critical cases has died having to travel abroad for treatment by land for long hours





## SPREAD OF EPIDEMICS

The outbreak of the cholera epidemic in Yemen was officially announced in October 2016, and the epidemic has dreadfully spread in a number of Yemeni governorates. Up to February 2018, there were 1 million and 16,000 cases of whom 2236 have died. Curiously, the incidence of diphtheria has been recently observed; as local organisations recorded 44 deaths.

Alexander Feit, the head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) delegation in Yemen expressed, "The health care system in Yemen is on the verge of collapse. The cholera epidemic comes as the most recent and clear evidence of the severe vulnerability of the population and infrastructure due to the way this conflict is taking place." He added, "The attacks on and the water and sanitation systems, the lack of maintenance, as well as the stifling restrictions on the import of essential goods such as spare parts and fuel, have all put millions of people in short of access to potable water."

The ICRC has been the chief humanitarian agency to respond to the cholera epidemic by providing intravenous fluids, oral rehydration salts, antibiotics and chlorine tablets to 12 health facilities in the worst affected areas. It has also contributed to improving hygiene conditions in a number of detention facilities.



**BETWEEN OCTOBER 2016 AND FEBRUARY 2018, 1 MILLION & 16,000 CHOLERA CASES WERE REPORTED; 2236 OF WHOM HAVE DIED**

→ **THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM IN YEMEN IS ON THE VERGE OF COLLAPSE DUE TO:**

1

The attacks on the water and sanitation systems

2

The stifling restrictions on the import of essential goods (spare parts, fuel...)

3

The short access of million people to potable water



## **CHILDREN: VICTIMS OF ARMED CONFLICT**

Beyond a doubt, children are the most affected victims in the armed conflicts. Therefore, the international law has provided children with special protection and has criminalised targeting or harming them in any way. However, In Yemen, children remain the most affected by the practices and actions of the Saudi-led coalition. They are the victims of hundreds of brutal massacres committed by the coalition since their first military operations, in March 2018. On the other hand, according to indicators of the humanitarian situa-

tion, children are the most influenced by the deterioration of entire conditions and at different levels.

The status quo in Yemen has become tragic in terms of the increasing number of children victims due to the acceleration of violence and conflicts. The number of child murders has dramatically increased, over the past two years, indicating that the Saudi-led coalition have violated the rules and principles of international law. According to statistics, 91% of the total children have been injured because of the coalition's air raids. Additionally, 5 of 6 children are dying per day and more than 5.4 million children are at

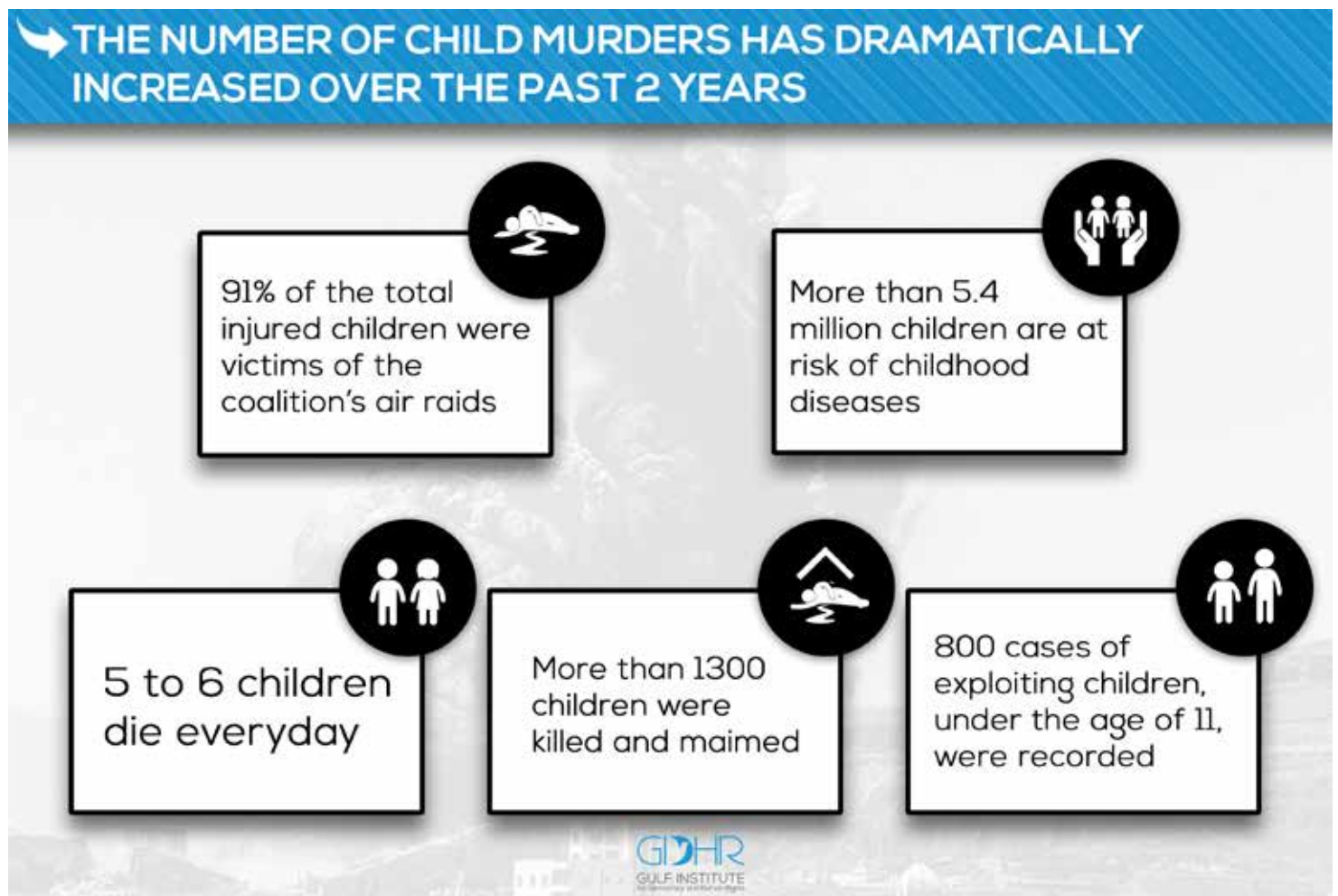
risk of childhood diseases; amid the decline of healthcare, immunisation and nutrition services.

The armed conflict has also defected the economic, social and behavioural aspects of the child in particular, and the family in general. The Statistical Diagnostic Manual for Mental Health Professionals (DSM) classifies the armed conflict's effects on the psychological state of the children and its reflection on their daily behaviour. This can be noticed in several cases, including: night fright, anxiety, discomfort, child trauma, and mental phobia, fear of sound and darkness, relapse in some acquired skills, bedwetting or urination.

Besides, it leads to behavioural disorders such as nibbling and lying, speech

problems such as stuttering, occasional loss of speech, eating disorders, screaming, crying, breathing difficulties, malnutrition\*, illness, homelessness, orphanhood and violence; resulting from witnessing the atrocities committed during the military operations of the Saudi-led coalition against civilians.

In June 2018, the UN Secretary-General António Guterres has blacklisted the Saudi-led coalition, government forces (backed by the United Arab Emirates), popular committees and the so-called al-Qaeda organisation on the terrorism list of the countries and groups that violate the rights of children in conflict zones. According to a report by the UN, "the United Nations has verified the killing and



\*Over one million seven hundred children face malnutrition risks (AI)



maiming of more than 1,300 children, more than half of them are victims of the coalition air strikes.”

The report pointed to the coalition is responsible for more than 600 child victims, including 370 deaths.

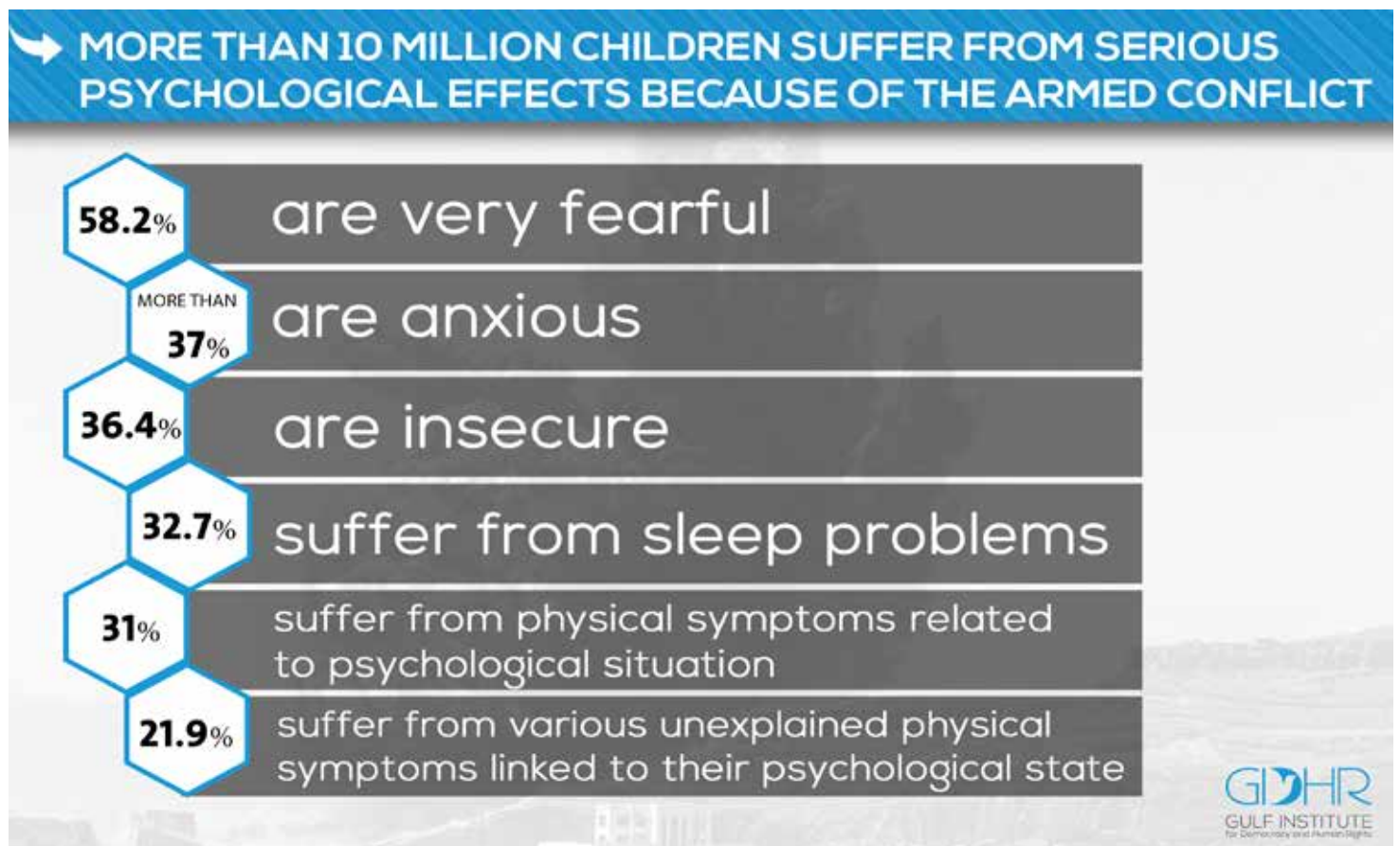
In the report, the United Nations documents more than 800 cases of exploiting children, under the age of 11, by various parties, including government forces loyal to the coalition and al-Qaeda, as well as exploiting children to guard checkpoints and governmental buildings and providing military points by food and equipment.

In its report, issued on 25 October 2016, the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) has expressed its concern about the “consistent, supported and credible information,” which confirm that Saudi Arabia commits serious violations against children's rights in Yemen. The CRC urged Saudi Arabia to abide by its obligation under the Con-

vention on the Rights of the Child and to ensure respect for the rules of international humanitarian law relating to children in armed conflict. The CRC has ensured its respect for the rules of international humanitarian law relating to children in armed conflict.

More than 10 million children suffer from serious psychological effects that negatively affect their thinking, feelings, behaviours, and relationships. More than 58.2% of children are very fearful, more than 37% are anxious, 36.4% are insecure and 32.7% suffer from sleep problems due to fear of the sounds of explosions resulting from air raids, aircraft sounds and anti-aircraft, as well as fear of darkness as a result of the continuous power outages.

It was also found that a number of children suffer from high levels of emotional anxieties; reflected on their physical safety. In addition, 31% of children



suffer from physical symptoms related to the psychological situation, such as headaches, chest pain, abdominal pain and fatigue, while 21.9% suffer from various unexplained physical symptom linked to their psychological state.

On 21 May 2018, governmental agents; loyal to the UAE, raped a 12-year-old boy who is a resident of Hodeida. The child was treated in one of the province's hospital after he suffered severe bodily harm. According to witnesses, the residents had discovered the crime but the agents fired into the air to prevent them from

saving the child. Then, the governmental agents returned the child to the house and arrested his father, in the building of al-Khawkha Administration of Security, and forced him not to file the case, after bribing him by large sums of money.

It should be noted that the governmental forces; loyal to the UAE, had also raped another child, in April 2018, in Hays. These acts threaten women and children in all areas controlled by the forces of the Saudi-led coalition.

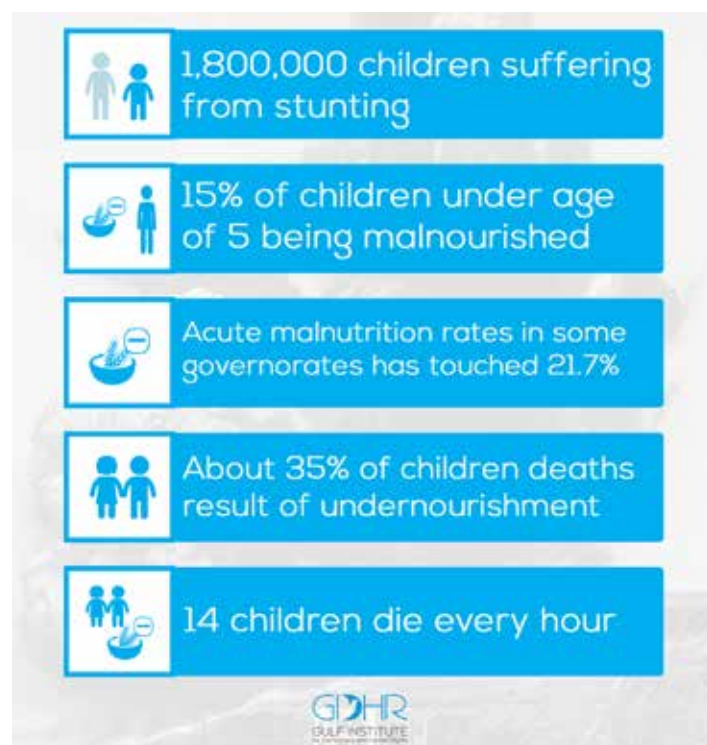
## MALNUTRITION

With the collapse of the health care system, the lives of millions of children and of pregnant and lactating women are at great risk. There are approximately 1,800,000 children suffering from stunting. Many children have been exposed to lifelong disabilities that negatively affect their intellectual and productive potential in the future. Undernutrition also contributes to high maternal, infant and child mortality.

Although there are no clear-cut data on infant mortality due to undernutrition, it is globally estimated that more than a third of child deaths are because of undernourishment and in most cases are due to the diseases' high severity. Therefore, Yemen could have the highest ratio due to the alarming levels of undernourishment.

During the years 2011-2017, many hazardous indicators of malnutrition in many governorates of Yemen have

emerged; warning of a major humanitarian crisis among many families. The emaciation index has mainly touched frightening levels, with more than 15% of children under age five being malnourished. The rates also show that acute malnutrition in some governorates has touched 21.7%<sup>\*</sup>; significantly



<sup>\*</sup>According to the findings of a field survey announced by the Yemeni Ministry of Health from Sana'a in December 2017

exceeding the emergency rates of the World Health Organization (WHO).

Remarkably, the acute increase in malnutrition rates in Yemen; particularly in the coastal areas, has coincided with the continuation of the military operations carried out by the coalition. It has also coincided with the imposition of a comprehensive blockade that negatively influenced the provision of food, potable water, medicine and health services. As well as targeting different categories of children, women and men.

By the end of 2017, Yemen's Ministry of Health announced that 125.550 Yemeni children die every year as a direct or indirect result of undernourishment according to international estimates (about 35% of child deaths), meaning that 14 children die every hour.

Further, 32% of children are born underweight and most of these children are at least four times more likely to die during the first month of birth than those with normal weight. A child with severe acute malnutrition is nine

times more likely to die than a well-fed child. Undernourishment also affects maternal mortality; women with short stature and women with anaemia are more likely to die at child-birth.

In general, high malnutrition rates are resulted due to a number of factors, including:

1. Food insecurity
2. The high prices of oil derivatives and the disruption of employees' salaries have led to the deterioration of the situation of many families and greatly affected their ability to access health facilities and benefit from its services.
3. High prices of essential commodities, especially medicine and food because of the lack of liquidity for many families. These goods have become expensive and thus due to the severe deficit most families cannot pay for health service. They are also unable to treat their children, to the extent that a number of families have to sell their properties or

Nutrition indicators up to the end of 2015	Nutritional indicators up to the end of 2016	Expected nutritional indicators as projections for 2017 based on the high risk rate
<b>1.5 million people need food aid</b>	<b>3.2 million people need food aid</b>	<b>3.350.113 people need food aid</b>
<b>160.000 severely malnourished children</b>	<b>320.000 severely malnourished children</b>	<b>503.353 severely malnourished children</b>
<b>690. 000million children suffer from moderate acute malnutrition</b>	<b>1.3 million children suffer from moderate acute malnutrition</b>	<b>1.741.792 children suffer from moderate acute malnutrition</b>
<b>780.000 Malnutrition cases among pregnant and lactating women</b>	<b>778.475 Malnutrition cases among pregnant and lactating women</b>	<b>1.104.967 Malnutrition cases among pregnant and lactating women</b>
<b>13.4 million people have no access to safe drinking water</b>	<b>19.3 million people have no access to safe drinking water</b>	<b>22.5 million people have no access to safe drinking water</b>

Source: Yemen Nutrition Cluster Bulletin- November 2017-2015



borrow money to pay the costs; driving many families to poverty.

4. The collapse of the social protection system in addition to the severe suffering experienced by many families who have difficulty in securing their food and medicine.

Additionally, around 225 centres have ceased its treatment services for malnutrition cases, which has greatly contributed to depriving many families access to health services. They have also experienced significant difficulties in moving to far centres because of the high transportation fees.

Obstructing the supply of therapeutic feeding and medicines has increased the suffering of children and deprived them of the nutritional needs. Therefore, the siege imposed by the coalition have greatly affected the treatment of those children and thus the deterioration of their health. They have become vulnerable to many deadly diseases such as respiratory infections and diarrhoea.

Other factors indirectly contributed to

the worsening health situation, malnutrition and the spread of epidemics, including factors linked to accessing potable water. In addition, the lack of sanitation and hygiene services has exposed millions of Yemenis to the risk of infectious diseases such as Dengue, Malaria, Cholera and Meningitis.

In June 2018, the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator in Yemen, Liz Grande, warned of the repercussions of the coalition's military operation against Hodeida and its impact on the lives of hundreds of thousands of civilians. She also pointed out that if the food aid delivery is disrupted, it will put the lives of about 100,000 children at risk.

On 30 June 2018, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), in Yemen, also warned against continuing the war in the western province of Hodeida. The NRC called to halt the war and to maintain peace as a solution to the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the coastal province, which is the only lifeline for food and humanitarian aid for 80 % of Yemenis.

## EMBRYOS AND NEONATAL DEFORMITIES

International organisations, including Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International and the European Union, have reported that the Saudi-led coalition is using high-risk weapons and ammunition against Yemen. Indeed, medical reports indicate that various Yemeni areas, which have been hit by cluster, phosphorous and vacuum would witness cases of malformations; significantly among embryos and newborns,

especially in the capital Sanaa, Saada province, Hodeida and parts of the province of Taiz.

In February 2016, Yemeni medics warned of the rising cases of babies born with congenital defects, caused by the use of banned weapons by the Saudi-led coalition.

Moreover, the weapons and ammunition used by the coalition appear to have been a direct cause of embryos and neonatal malformations, especially those munitions and weapons used in Saada, Hodeidah, Sanaa and Taiz

governorates. The same weapons, which the humanitarian organisations warn of, were used in 2004, by the US forces in Iraq and in 2009, by the Israeli forces in the Gaza Strip, resulting in dozens of deformation cases.

The Yemeni government's reports indicate that there is a significant increase in the rates of fetal deformities and of newly born deaths. According to the reports, the reason for this is the Saudi-led coalition's weapons remnants and the use of various types of internationally prohibited weapons that have been banned by the Geneva Convention. The reports emphasise that these weapons have lethal impacts on human health and the environment, which lead to the rapid spread of cancer and viral diseases. It also indirectly lead to the deformities of embryos and newborns.

Besides, the use of internationally pro-

hibited weapons has led to collapse of health services and the inability of the Yemeni government to combat viral and chronic diseases. It also resulted in the acute shortage of medicines, in addition to psychological pressure, anxiety and fear among the Yemenis; mainly children and women.

The head of the committee of the human rights situation in Yemen, at the Gulf Institute for Democracy and Human Rights (GIDHR), has visited with a group of activists Al-Saba'en Hospital; specialised in children and women diseases. The largest hospital in the Yemeni capital Sana'a receives hundreds of cases every day from various governorates.

He pointed out that specialists in the hospital reported that:

- Rates of early births, fetal malformations and embryos deaths have significantly increased in the recent

## ↪ THE USE OF BANNED WEAPONS BY THE SAUDI-LED COALITION RESULTED IN:

1

Rates of early births and premature babies have significantly increased in the recent months

2

Cases of deformities and fetal malformations have shockingly increased, and cases of rare deformities (having no head, or having conjoined legs or arms) were recorded

3

Rates of embryos deaths have significantly increased

months, with approximately up to two cases per day, which rarely occurred before the war.

- Cases of deformities and premature births have shockingly increased and many newborns have rare deformities such as having no head or having conjoined legs or arms.
- Dozens of surgeries have been monthly performed for women who carry dead or mutilated embryos. Women also undergo caesarean sections to save the embryo. However, many embryos die shortly after birth due to reasons that are most likely

associated with war and the remnants of the used weapons. Many women who carry deformed embryos live in the bombardment areas, including Saada, Sana'a, Taiz and Hodeida. The GIDHR, through this report, emphasises that these cases are the result of weapons used by the coalition in the war. In order to prove the causes of these phenomena, embryos must be subjected to high-quality medical tests through specialised devices that are quite expensive and not available to the health institutions, in Yemen.

## EDUCATION

More than 4.5 million Yemeni children are deprived of their right to education. During the years of the military operations, which still ongoing to the moment of the writing this report, hundreds of schools and educational facilities have been destroyed. In addition, dozens of schools have been used to house the

IDPs who have been forcibly displaced from their homes in more than one Yemeni region, leading to a dramatic deterioration in the education sector. More than 2 million children have been deprived of their right to attend school or have dropout, since the ongoing conflict in Yemen\*. The main indicators confirm that the

\*Article 13 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) stipulates:

1. The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to education. They agree that education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and the sense of its dignity, and shall strengthen the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. They further agree that education shall enable all persons to participate effectively in a free society, promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations and all racial, ethnic or religious groups, and further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.
2. The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize that, with a view to achieving the full realization of this right:
  - (a) Primary education shall be compulsory and available free to all;
  - (b) Secondary education in its different forms, including technical and vocational secondary education, shall be made generally available and accessible to all by every appropriate means, and in particular by the progressive introduction of free education;
  - (c) Higher education shall be made equally accessible to all, on the basis of capacity, by every appropriate means, and in particular by the progressive introduction of free education;
  - (d) Fundamental education shall be encouraged or intensified as far as possible for those persons who have not received or completed the whole period of their primary education;
  - (e) The development of a system of schools at all levels shall be actively pursued, an adequate fellowship system shall be established, and the material conditions of teaching staff shall be continuously improved.
3. The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to have respect for the liberty of parents and, when applicable, legal guardians to choose for their children schools, other than those established by the public authorities, which conform to such minimum educational standards as may be laid down or approved by the State and to ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own convictions.
4. No part of this article shall be construed so as to interfere with the liberty of individuals and bodies to establish and direct educational institutions, subject always to the observance of the principles set forth in paragraph 1 of this article and to the requirement that the education given in such institutions shall conform to such minimum standards as may be laid down by the State.



children education, in Yemen, during 2017-2018, have been influenced by many factors; including among others:

1. Demolition of more than 2,500 educational facilities in various governorates.
2. The spread of anxiety among a large number of families; who fear to enrol their children in schools.
3. Obstruction of printing textbooks, since 2015, until the issuance of this report. This has caused a significant shortage of textbooks and other school materials, in addition to the lack of financial resources for printing textbooks and the stop of aids by the donor countries.
4. Teachers' strikes due to the interruption of their salaries led to the suspension of the educational process.
5. The psychological state of many students due to malnutrition. In addition to the displacement of their families and the continuation of the Saudi-led coalition military operations in various governorates.
6. The inability of families to provide school meals and supplies, which has deprived tens of thousands of children of their right to education. The school dropout rate was 47%; namely 9.2 million children, compared to 5.27% during the pre-war period.
7. Thousands of students, enrolled in colleges and universities, have stopped studying, due to lack of financial resources.
8. Deprivation of hundreds of students studying outside Yemen to continue their education as a result of the continued blockade of Sanaa International Airport.

Unequivocally, teachers are among the most affected categories by the contin-

ued interruption of salaries, as they do not have other sources of income to support their families and to secure their livelihoods. Their misery has been tragically accelerated as some left the profession to work in daily paid jobs like in restaurants. Other teachers returned to their village to reclaim their plantations while others are working in craftwork, to save their families from starvation.

The academic year 2016 – 2017 has witnessed several school teachers and university professors' strikes because of the continued interruption of their salaries, which negatively affected the educational process. Accordingly, the performance and quality of the educational process in Yemen have obviously been declined. Students did not receive the full education requirements during the year and school dropout rates have significantly increased. Instead, many students have been enrolled in extremist organisations and armed gangs.

As the conflict continues, the indicators of school dropout and the quality of education have progressively risen. As well, there are future concerns over depriving ill and affected children of their right to education, especially those who are underweight at birth, as expectations indicate that if they survive until they attend the school, they are more likely to drop out or would face multiple educational difficulties.

Recently, thousands of Hodeida's students have been deprived of their right to complete their academic year and to take the primary and secondary exams. The IDPs of this group province would also face a crucial problem in passing examinations in July 2018.

1



More than 2 million children have been deprived of their right to attend school

2



The school dropout rate has increased to 47% compared to 5.27% before the war

3



Thousands of students enrolled in colleges have stopped studying due to lack of financial resources

4



Deprivation of hundreds of students studying abroad to continue their education as a result of the continued blockade of Sanaa Int'l Airport

5



Demolition of more than 2500 educational facilities

6



The spread of anxiety among families who fear to enroll their children in schools

7



Obstruction of printing textbooks since 2015

8



Teachers' strikes due to the interruption of their salaries

9



The psychological state of many students due to the effects of and continuation of the military operations

10



The inability of families to provide their minimal supplies

# SOCIAL CARE FOR CHILDREN

## 1. JUVENILE CARE CENTRES

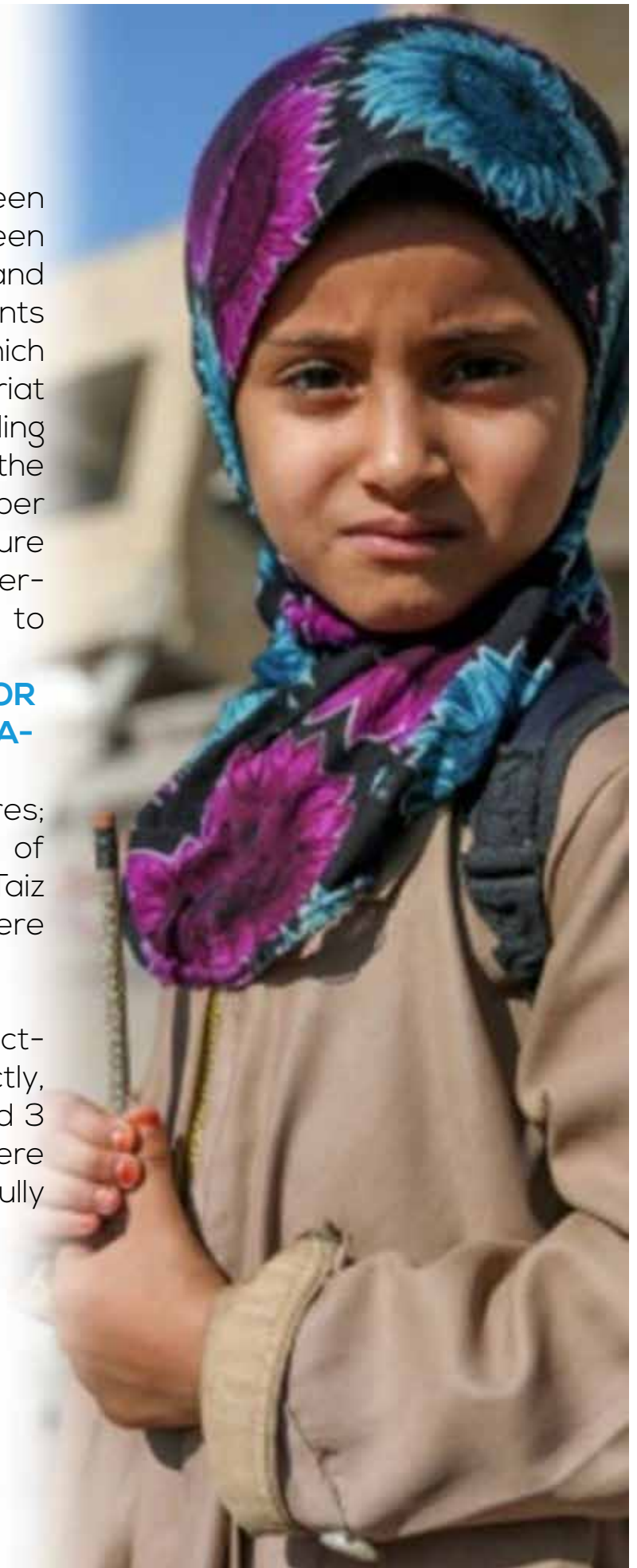
The juvenile's care services have been suspended. These services have been provided by the 10 social welfare and social guidance centres; departments of the Ministry of Social Affairs, which are located in the capital's secretariat and other governorates (including Aden, Taiz, Hadramout). Further, the control of terrorist groups in a number of governorates has led to the closure of five childcare centres, and other services have also been affected due to lack of financial resources.

## 2. SAFE CHILDHOOD CENTRES FOR THE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION OF STREET CHILDREN

The services of the childhood centres; concerned with the protection of street children in Sanaa, Aden and Taiz were affected. Some of them were closed and others suspended.

## 3. THE ORPHANAGES

Yemen's orphanages have been affected, whether directly or indirectly, namely 10 governmental, 15 civil and 3 joint orphanages. Three of them were completely closed and one was fully destroyed.





## INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

IDPs, in particular children and women, suffer as a result of the growing conflict in Yemen. Their grief is exacerbated due to the scarcity and weakness of support provided by the governmental and private relief agencies, which provide services and basic needs of food, tools, health and therapeutic supplies. In addition, thousands of displaced children have been deprived of education and the unemployment rate among the displaced has amplified, which add to the Yemenis' grief.

The IDPs' ongoing crisis has been deepened and their totality has markedly increased amid the Saudi-led coalition's current attacks on Hodeida governorate. In June 2018, Hodeida has witnessed a remarkable wave of displacement because of the deadly military operations by the coalition against the western coastal territories. The inhabitants of the coastline areas, such as the al-Maqha, al-Khawkha, al-Tuhaitta, al-Fazaa and others, were forced to flee their homes and search for alternative homes outside the area. These areas were later turned into a military zone, as in the case of the Directorate of al-Wazeda'a, where the UAE forces has built houses to its forces.

The head of the committee of the human rights situation in Yemen, at the Gulf Institute for Democracy and Human Rights (GIDHR) has visited the IDPs' camps in Hodeida. He pointed to the tragic situation of hundreds of

lies because of the lack of shelters and adequate food amid an almost thorough absence of international organisations; concerned with relief and shelter issues, to set up and deliver an area of assistance, such as shelter, health care, camp management or protection.

During June 2018, indiscriminate shelling of residential areas in Hodeida was recorded, by the coalition's air forces. Various air raids have targeted houses in the villages of al-Durahmial and al-Manthar. Furthermore, the heavy strikes have targeted the IDPs' means of transportations, killed and wounded dozens. It forced scores of thousands of Hodeida's residents to flee in search of safe shelters; away from the coalition's practices that turned them into military targets.

On 26 June 2018, the Saudi-led coalition targeted a bus carrying displaced passengers, on the highway between Zabied and al-Jarha Directorates in the Hodeida province. The bus had about 22 IDPs on board, mostly women and children. It left nine dead, including two children. Three of the deaths have not yet been identified because of their charred bodies. Further, 12 were wounded, including 4 children and one woman, mostly with serious injuries.

## OBSTRUCTING HUMANITARIAN SUPPLIES AND ASSISTANCE

The restrictions imposed by the Saudi-led coalition forces on imports have exacerbated the humanitarian situation. Indeed, the coalition have repeatedly prevented the entry of commercial and relief vessels, deliberately delayed and diverted fuel tankers, closed important ports and prevented goods from entering seaports specifically to the port of Hodeida. The lack of fuel; to run generators in hospitals and to run the water generators and others, has also resulted in the interruption of basic services, which are dependent on the availability of fuel.

Delays caused by the current inspection system in the Red-Sea ports have created additional barriers and commercial risks for shippers and importers supplying Yemen with food provisions. Certainly, the Saudi-led coalition must facilitate the United Nations' efforts to ensure an increase in the flow of essential supplies and humanitarian assistance\*.

According to observers, the Saudi-led coalition appears to be taking advantage of the UN arms embargo on Yemen as a cover to slow down and block the arrival of commercial and humanitarian aid, by conducting

frequent inspections that delay ships by 120 hours in March and 74 hours in April this year.

Besides, the coalition continue to inspect ships even after being inspected by the United Nations Inspection Commission, taking advantage of the agreement under which the United Nations granted the right to conduct additional inspections to these which are carried out by the United Nations and, if necessary, ships could be imposed to another full inspection.

According to an Amnesty International's report, the Saudi-led coalition is conducting "excessive" inspections of aid at Hodeidah is imperilling millions already suffering in world's worst humanitarian crisis." Therefore, millions of lives are at risk due to the deliberate delay of food, fuel and medical supplies by the coalition\*\*.

The Sanaa authorities cause additional obstacles; "the de facto authority" as called by Amnesty International. It primarily imposes a delay on aid workers before distributing and transferring the aids from warehouses. As well, some cases of corruption have been monitored, as trying to obtain bribes in exchange for the disbursement of the quantities of aids\*\*\*.

---

\*Report of the Panel of Experts on Yemen under Security Council Resolution 2342 (2017) - January 2018

\*\*Amnesty International tracked one shipment which was delayed by the Coalition for 50 days after it was inspected by the United Nations. Ai also confirmed that another shipment was delayed for 46 days while the third was for 24 days. It added that the coalition informed the UN Security Council that only one shipment of the three shipments that were delayed; as required under the agreement with the United Nations, while the coalition did not inform the delay of the other two shipments.

\*\*\*Lynn Maalouf, Middle East Research Director at Amnesty International: "By delaying vital supplies such as fuel and medicine getting into the country, the Saudi-led coalition is abusing its powers to cruelly inflict additional hardship on the most vulnerable civilians in Yemen [...] Blockades that cause substantial, disproportionate harm to civilians are prohibited under international law."

## ➔ OBSTRUCTING HUMANITARIAN SUPPLIES AND ASSISTANCE:



Preventing the entry of commercial and relief vessels



Deliberately delaying & diverting fuel tankers



Closure of important ports



Preventing goods from entering seaports specifically to the port of Hodeida



Taking advantage of the UN arms embargo on Yemen as a cover to slow down & block the arrival of commercial & humanitarian aid



**Amnesty:** Saudi-led coalition is conducting “excessive” inspections of aid at Hodeida, endangering millions of lives due to the deliberate delay of food, fuel, & medical supplies



## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To immediately suspend all the Saudi-led coalition's operations in Yemen; to completely lift the blockade and to open airports and seaports.
  2. To urge the Yemeni parties to stop all forms of conflict and engage in serious negotiations to ensure that Yemenis are spared the scourge of war.
  3. To form an independent international commission in order to investigate all the committed atrocities and violations. These violations include the crimes practiced by the coalition against children and women and against detainees in secret prisons; such as systematic rape and torture.
  4. To ensure that those who have committed serious crimes in Yemen and who are regarded as war criminals are referred to international courts. Further, to ensure that those criminals are held accountable in accordance with the relevant international rules and procedures.
  5. To stop the large-scale of land, sea and air military operations, led by the coalition, to control the province of Hodeida, which is currently the only functioning seaport in Yemen. Obviously, the closure of Hodeida port would likely lead to starving millions of Yemenis who depend on this port for humanitarian assistance and the basic elements of life.
  6. To activate the United Nations bodies and offices in Yemen, in order to carry out its role and assume responsibility regarding the humanitarian catastrophe suffered by the Yemenis for more than three years and continues to increase as to the moment of writing this report.
-



GULF INSTITUTE  
for Democracy and Human Rights



**Gulf Institute for Democracy and Human Rights (GIDHR)**, is a civil non-governmental and non-profit organization aiming to promote the respect for democratic principles, as well as establishing the human rights and social justice principles, and stopping the human rights violations in the Gulf Region in general and in Bahrain in particular. Headquartered in Sydney, Australia GIDHR has the right to open branches in other regions, has legal character and independent financial disclosure. GIDHR is seeking to be in the ranks of the major organizations defending democratic and human rights principles and values through contributing to achieve peace and justice for all in the Gulf States.

**معهد الخليج للديمقراطية وحقوق الإنسان**  
منظمة غير ربحية وغير حكومية، تم تأسيسه في أستراليا ويهدف إلى تعزيز ونشر ثقافة الديمقراطية، كما يسعى لتحقيق مبادئ حقوق الإنسان والعدالة الاجتماعية وإيقاف الانتهاكات في دول الخليج. وله الحق في فتح فروع أخرى في مناطق أخرى، ويكون له شخصية اعتبارية وذمة مالية مستقلة ولا يستهدف من نشاطه جني الربح التجاري. يسعى معهد الخليج للديمقراطية وحقوق الإنسان لأن يكون في مصاف كبرى المنظمات المدافعة عن حقوق الإنسان عبر المساهمة في تحقيق السلام والعدالة في دول الخليج.

+61413984959 | +61424610661 | +61421237922

email: [info@gidhr.org](mailto:info@gidhr.org)