



27 December 2018 □ Al Sabeen Hospital in Sana'a has admitted many cholera patients over the last 2 years, including infants as young as 2 months. Many of them also suffer from acute malnutrition. At the peak of the cholera outbreak more than 150 patients a day were being admitted to Al Sabeen hospital with severe watery diarrhoea. Some 20% of the total were diagnosed with cholera.

Two-and-a-half-year-old Ramez and eight-month-old Mohamed are brothers. Small and frail, they have been diagnosed with cholera and are moderately malnourished.

Their family moved from Hajjah to Sana'a after their father lost his job.



“In Hajjah we used to drink pure water from wells,” says the boys’ mother, “but after moving to Sana’a we had to drink from water trucks.”

It is almost 4 years since war erupted in Yemen, with devastating consequences for the country’s infrastructure and health system.

Despite ongoing humanitarian food assistance the latest IPC analysis - covering December 2018 to January 2019 - revealed 15.9 million people (53% of the population) faced food shortages. Of these, 17% of the population - about 5 million people - are classified as IPC Phase 4 (Emergency), and 36% - 10.8 million people - as IPC Phase 3 (Crisis).

Like millions of Yemenis, Ramez and Mohammed’s parents face a constant struggle to access healthcare, pay rent and feed their children.

“I have 3 more children. Their father is looking after them at home,” says the boys’ mother.

Within minutes she receives a phone call from her husband who tells her the children at home are starting to show signs of infection. They agree he should bring them to the hospital straight away.

Abdulmajeed Yahya is 8-months-old and weighs a little over 3 kilograms. He has been severely malnourished for over a month. He was diagnosed with cholera at Al Sabeen Hospital seven days ago, after making the 5 hour journey to Sana’a from Al Haymaharea with his mother and father.

“My husband lost his job after the war started and is now unemployed. We had to borrow money so we could come here from Al Haymaharea,” says Abdulmajeed’s mother.



~~Cholera and malnutrition in Yemen threatens millions~~