Anas is 9 years old and is suffering from Thalassemia. Anas is one of the patients being protected under the framework of the Emergency Health and Nutrition Project 23 October 2019 (Yemen) - The World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF and the World Bank, through the Emergency Health and Nutrition Project (EHNP), are supporting the provision of thousands of blood bags to enable life-saving transfusions for thalassemia patients in Yemen.

Globally, over 50,000 people are born each year with a severe form of thalassemia—a blood disorder causing the body to make an abnormal or inadequate amount of hemoglobin. The disorder results in large numbers of red blood cells being destroyed, which leads to anemia. An estimated 80% of these cases occur in developing countries.

In Yemen, a country ravaged by war, the treatment of thalassemia is a rare but much needed miracle. This is why the support provided to the national Thalassemia center is essential. With regular blood transfusions needed by these patients, safe blood saves lives and improves health.

“The center receives 60-70 patients suffering from thalassemia and anemia every day. Once a case is examined, the patient is referred to the national blood transfusion center to receive a blood transfusion,” said Muktar Alkubati, manager of the Thalassemia center in Yemen.

Due to shortages in blood supplies, centers such as this one struggle to meet the demands for blood transfusions. The first victims to suffer were—and still are—vulnerable children with blood disorders, with many facing the prospect of death at an early age.

“Some children died and some did not; these diseases can cause very visible deformations. Adequate and immediate blood transfusions could have saved those children’s lives,” Dr Alkubati added.
Anas, a bright, 9 year-old boy in the third grade, is living with Thalassemia and has benefitted from the provision of support through the EHNP. He receives a blood bag every three weeks, and because of this, he is healthier and able to live life with a smile on his face.

**About the Emergency Health and Nutrition Project (EHNP)**

WHO with its technical partner the World Bank, under the Emergency Health and Nutrition Project (EHNP) are meeting health needs in Yemen. The EHNP is a crosscutting response framework designed specifically to provide basic health and nutrition services to meet acute health needs, supporting the national system in the midst of war.

EHNP supports 72 hospitals across Yemen with a suite of essential life-saving health services, through the health service delivery mechanism known as the Minimum Service Package (MSP). WHO and the World Bank are also working with UNICEF to strengthen the referral system from the primary, secondary, to the tertiary levels of care. In addition, EHNP is supporting public health programmes and disease response to outbreaks such as cholera and diphtheria to name a few.

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