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PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release



YEMEN IN THE GRIP OF CHOLERA OUTBREAK AS FUNDING DRIES UP

At least 114 people have died so far, and more than 20,000 people have been affected within the last few weeks as the disease has spread rapidly, especially in the north of the country.

Islamic Relief is providing essential medical treatment, cholera antibiotics, intravenous fluids, hygiene kits and improved sanitation to help tackle the outbreak. But an immediate scale-up of the response is critical, with more funding urgently needed to prevent the further spread of the deadly disease.

Siddiq Khan, Islamic Relief's Country Director in Yemen, says: "Thousands of lives hang in the balance. The cholera outbreak is spreading rapidly and quick action can mean the difference between life and death. 9 years of war and economic crisis have severely weakened Yemen's health system and other public services. Medical facilities face critical shortages of essential supplies, struggling to cope with the outbreak in cholera cases."

Cholera spreads quickly in areas lacking clean water and proper sanitation, and it can turn fatal if not treated promptly. Strengthening health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene services is critical to addressing the root causes of this situation.

International funding has dried up as Yemen's crisis has faded from global attention after 9 years of war, forcing some critical aid to shut down. The UN-led Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan for 2024 currently has just 15% of the funding it needs. Islamic Relief health and nutrition teams in Yemen have seen a sharp increase in child malnutrition and disease since the UN World Food Programme had to suspend food distributions to millions of people at the end of 2023.

Supported by the Yemen Humanitarian Fund (YHF), Islamic Relief has so far delivered 15,000 antibiotics and IV solutions to rehydrate those affected. We have also worked to

prevent future cholera outbreaks by improving water systems, providing water filters, building family restrooms, and promoting community health education. In the past year alone, we have provided essential medical care and treatment to over 151,000 people.

With at least 18.2 million Yemenis in need of humanitarian assistance and 17.8 million people in need of health or medical assistance, immediate and sustained action is crucial to save lives and prevent the further spread of the cholera outbreak in the country.

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About Islamic Relief

Islamic Relief is an independent international humanitarian aid and development organization. Islamic Relief is headquartered in the United Kingdom and was founded in 1984. Islamic Relief serves in more than 45 countries, assisting more than 120 million people. The scope of Islamic Relief assistance covers emergency assistance, integrated sustainable development, disaster risk reduction, and advocacy.

Islamic Relief has been operating in Yemen since 1998 by implementing various emergency and development response, including food aid, water and sanitation, health care, orphan and child welfare and vocational training for young people, and has benefitted millions of people.

About Islamic Relief Malaysia

Islamic Relief Malaysia was established in 2005, which aspires to continue Islamic Relief humanitarian assistance in the Asia-Pacific region. Islamic Relief Malaysia serves as a fundraising and project implementer for international and local projects.

Kindly visit the Islamic Relief Malaysia website, www.islamic-relief.org.my for more information.

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