



[A New United Nations Report Reveals That an Alarming Number of at Least 11,000 Children Have Been Killed or Maimed in the Yemeni Conflict](#)

A recent report released by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has drawn attention to the extent of the disturbing impact that the longstanding Yemeni conflict has had on the country's child population. The agency stated that a troubling figure of more than 11,000 children have been killed or injured, including at least 62 in the period since the expiration of a 6-month long truce back in early October. Distressingly, due to the fact that it only consists of UN-verified information, officials have acknowledged that the actual numbers are likely even higher. The conflict in Yemen has had a catastrophic effect on children and other civilians, resulting in not only deplorable deaths and injuries, but also the destruction of infrastructure, acute malnutrition, massive levels of food insecurity, and reliance on humanitarian assistance. Analysts and observers have long pointed to the damaging role that Saudi-led airstrikes have played in exacerbating this array of negative humanitarian consequences, particularly in regards to children. UNICEF representatives have expressed the need for a renewal of the truce in Yemen in order to allow for further efforts aimed at alleviating the dire humanitarian crisis.

The alarming figures associated with the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Yemen are truly staggering. Now nearly eight years since the outbreak of the conflict back in late 2014, it is estimated that a shocking more than 23.4 million people are in need of humanitarian aid – including close to 13 million children. Over two million children in the country are acutely malnourished, of which more than half a million are under the age of five. Additionally, at least 17.8 million civilians, including over 9 million children, lack access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene services. This is largely due to Saudi-led airstrikes and years of bombardment that have severely crippled Yemen's health system and infrastructure. Low levels of immunization combined with inadequate access to safe water sources have left children extremely susceptible to frequent outbreaks of diseases like cholera and measles. Yemen also faces a significant education crisis, with millions of children out of school, as experts estimate that at least one out of every four schools in the war-torn nation are either partially damaged or completely destroyed.

Peace activists have outlined how an extension of the truce in Yemen would allow aid agencies to more easily access Yemeni civilians who are in desperate need of humanitarian assistance. Thus, back in early October, there was extreme disappointment that Yemen's warring parties were unable to do so again, in contrast to previous months. The initial two-month long ceasefire was agreed upon in April, and was renewed for the same period of time twice both in early June and in early August. However, it expired and there was a failure to extend it at the beginning of October, despite calls for a further six-month renewal – which experts stated would have helped continue the upwards trajectory towards making critical humanitarian-related improvements in Yemen. In fact, during the six months when it was in place between April and October of this year, aid workers had noted how prolonged access to harder-to-reach areas and the removal of the threat of debilitating aerial bombardment and fighting on the ground had paved the way for some important improvements on infrastructure and day-to-day life for ordinary civilians including, most critically, children.

Ultimately, it is hoped that continued focus on the plight of children and civilians there will spur the attempts to initiate a prolonged truce and cessation of hostilities in Yemen.