

UK criticized for cutting aid to Yemen

5th March, 2021



The United Kingdom is being criticized for cutting the amount of aid it gives to Yemen. The UK's foreign office said it would cut the amount of humanitarian aid to Yemen by more than 50 per cent. However, just three weeks ago, foreign office minister

James Cleverly said Yemen would remain a "UK priority country". He said his government would use all of its efforts to bring peace. Yemen is one of the world's least developed countries. The United Nations reports that Yemen is the country with the most people in need of humanitarian aid. There are about 24 million people in need of help. This is about 85 per cent of its population. It ranks second worst in the Global Hunger Index.

There could be a catastrophic humanitarian crisis in Yemen. Millions of people are struggling to find food to eat. There is now the threat of a famine that would deepen the crisis. The civil war has left hospitals in ruins. Jan Egeland from the Norwegian Refugee Council said: "We are seeing a relentless countdown to a possible famine that the world hasn't seen since Ethiopia in the 1980s." The United Nations said: "More than 50,000 Yemenis are already starving to death and 16 million will go hungry this year." It added that the UK cut in aid from \$280 million last year to \$120 million this year would be "tragic". The UK's Guardian newspaper said: "Yemenis aren't starving, they are being starved."

Sources: theguardian.com / arabnews.com / wikipedia.org

Writing

All countries should double the amount of aid to Yemen to help people eat. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

United Kingdom / criticized / humanitarian aid / foreign minister / developed / rank / catastrophic / struggling / threat / famine / civil war / countdown / starving / tragic

True / False

- a) The UK has criticized other countries for not giving enough aid. T / F
- b) The UK will cut foreign aid to Yemen by more than 50 per cent. T / F
- c) The UK said it would do all it could to help bring peace in Yemen. T / F
- d) About 85% of people in Yemen need help. T / F
- e) There is a threat of famine in Yemen. T / F
- f) A refugee expert said the last serious famine was in the 1970s. T / F
- g) The UN said just fewer than 50,000 people are starving in Yemen. T / F
- h) A British newspaper said Yemenis are being starved. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. criticized | a. most important |
| 2. cut | b. dying of hunger |
| 3. priority | c. rates |
| 4. efforts | d. disastrous |
| 5. ranks | e. attacked |
| 6. catastrophic | f. possibility |
| 7. threat | g. help |
| 8. relentless | h. reduce |
| 9. aid | i. work |
| 10. starving | j. nonstop |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of foreign aid?
- b) What aid does your country give to poorer nations?
- c) Why do countries need humanitarian aid?
- d) What do you know about Yemen?
- e) Why is Yemen having so many problems?
- f) How can we help the least developed countries?
- g) Why do countries still need humanitarian aid in the 21st century?
- h) How well developed is your country?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. foreign | a. go hungry this year |
| 2. cut the amount of | b. to find food |
| 3. There are about 24 million people in | c. worst |
| 4. This is about 85 per cent | d. office |
| 5. It ranks second | e. countdown |
| 6. Millions of people are struggling | f. need of help |
| 7. There is now the threat | g. starved |
| 8. We are seeing a relentless | h. of a famine |
| 9. 16 million will | i. of its population |
| 10. they are being | j. humanitarian aid |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What is a catastrophic humanitarian crisis?
- What can we do to prevent famines?
- What civil wars do you know about?
- What do you know about famines around the world?
- What do you think of the UK for cutting aid to Yemen?
- Would you be happy if your country sent aid to other countries?
- What questions would you like to ask the foreign office minister?

Spelling

- eronfig office minister
- remain a UK riotpiry country
- the least elovdedpe countries
- in need of iaranutiamnh aid
- 85 per cent of its oauponiltp
- It ranks second sorwt
- Millions of people are grslggunit
- the threat of a afneim
- We are seeing a renestlsle countdown
- 16 million will go hurgyn this year
- this year would be crtagi
- they are being srtavd

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. h	3. a	4. i	5. c
6. d	7. f	8. j	9. g	10. d

Role Play

Role A – Money

You think money is the most important form of aid. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their kinds of aid. Also, tell the others which is the least urgent of these (and why): food, medicine or iPads.

Role B – Food

You think food is the most important form of aid. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their kinds of aid. Also, tell the others which is the least urgent of these (and why): money, medicine or iPads.

Role C – Medicine

You think medicine is the most important form of aid. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their kinds of aid. Also, tell the others which is the least urgent of these (and why): food, money or iPads.

Role D – iPads

You think iPads is the most important form of aid. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their kinds of aid. Also, tell the others which is the least urgent of these (and why): food, medicine or money.

Speaking – Aid

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important form of aid at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------|---------------|
| • Money | • Medicine |
| • Food | • Tents |
| • Blankets | • Roads |
| • iPads | • Consultancy |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.