
Report To:	The Inverclyde Council	Date:	16 February 2017
Report By:	Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources	Report No:	SL/LP/003/17
Contact Officer:	Sharon Lang	Contact No:	01475 712112
Subject:	Disasters Emergency Committee in Scotland: Yemen Crisis Appeal – Request by Councillor McCabe		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise of a request received from Councillor McCabe that the Council considers supporting the Disasters Emergency Appeal (DEC) in Scotland Yemen Crisis Appeal by means of financial donation and promotional activity.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Oxfam has contacted Councillor McCabe on behalf of the DEC in Scotland in relation to the Yemen Crisis Appeal launched on 13 December 2016. The appeal is in response to the humanitarian crisis brought about by 20 months of war in Yemen which have left more than half the population, 14 million people, suffering from hunger.
- 2.2 The appeal asks for urgent action to allow DEC agencies to scale up their emergency response and reach more people with food rations as well as access to cash, clean water and health information.
- 2.3 The appeal requests that individual Councils within Scotland support the DEC by means of any financial donation and any promotional activities as are considered appropriate.
- 2.4 The Council has previously donated £10,000 to the Ebola Appeal, £10,000 to the Nepal Earthquake Appeal and £10,000 to the Malawi Food Crisis Appeal.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Council considers the request by Councillor McCabe.

Gerard Malone
Head of Legal & Property Services

We are contacting you on behalf of the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) in Scotland in relation to the Yemen Crisis Appeal. Launched today (Tuesday December 13), the Appeal comes as more than half the population of Yemen, 14 million people suffer from hunger. We know that at least 7 million people do not know where their next meal will come from and that children are dying from malnutrition.

Twenty months of war have brought Yemen, already one of the poorest countries in the world, to breaking point. People have lost their jobs and the economy has almost collapsed. Hospitals, schools and farms have been destroyed. Despite efforts to end the conflict, lives are being lost now and aid is needed urgently.

We are confident the Scottish public will respond generously to this Appeal. We are grateful that individual councils have offered welcome support to previous DEC Appeals – including financial donations and promotional activities. As the leader of the Council, we would urge you to consider what support you can offer to this Appeal.

Donations can be made: online <http://www.dec.org.uk>; via the 24 hour hotline on 0370 60 60 900; over the counter at any high street bank or post office; or by sending a cheque. People can also donate £5 by texting the word SCOT to 70000. The full £5 will go to the DEC Yemen Crisis Appeal.

We know children face the greatest risk of starvation, with almost half a million infants and young children now in need of immediate treatment for malnutrition. DEC members are already providing treatment for malnutrition and running mobile health teams and hospitals, but they need more funds. Alongside this, a cholera outbreak in some parts of the country must be averted before it spreads.

DEC agencies are ready to scale up their emergency response and reach more people with food rations as well as access to cash, clean water and health information. Our experienced teams of Yemeni and international aid workers partner with local organisations across all of Yemen's 22 provinces. They face daily challenges to reach those in most need but are already providing lifesaving aid around the clock.

In Scotland, we strongly welcome the Scottish Government's £250,000 contribution to this Appeal. We hope you will also appreciate the urgent assistance the people of Yemen need and help us to promote the Appeal whilst considering making your own financial contribution to support the work of the DEC's 13 members:

- £25 could provide a month's supply of life-saving peanut paste to a malnourished child
- £60 could provide clean drinking water for two families for a month
- £100 could provide supplies to a clinic treating severely malnourished children for a week

Thank you for doing all you can to support this Appeal and please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

Jamie Livingstone
Convenor, DEC Scotland
Head of Oxfam Scotland

Ally Thomson
Chair, Yemen Crisis Appeal
Head of Advocacy & Communications in Scotland,
British Red Cross



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