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News note

UNICEF deplores deaths among children in recent armed clashes in Taiz, Yemen

SANAA, 5 December 2011 - UNICEF is following with great concern the armed confrontation in Taiz with direct impact on the most vulnerable - women and children, despite the power transfer deal signed on 23rd November 2011. During the past four days alone, at least three children have been killed and seven others were been seriously injured.

Access to basic social services and their availability is becoming ever more limited with both schools and hospitals under attack from the armed forces and groups. More than 100,000 children are directly affected having limited or no access to schooling or health facilities.

"We are greatly disturbed by the confirmed reports of violent attacks on children in Taiz and their increasing deprivation from accessing quality basic social services and the impact on their psychosocial well-being" says Geert Cappelaere, UNICEF's Representative in Yemen.

"All parties to the conflict have to put the interests of children above all other considerations. No single war is worth the life of a child. Education, health, quality nutrition, protection and drinking water are fundamental rights and they are critical to assisting Taiz and Yemen to bring an end to under-development and human suffering," adds Cappelaere.

About UNICEF

UNICEF works in 190 countries and territories to help children survive and thrive, from early childhood through adolescence. The world's largest provider of vaccines for developing countries, UNICEF supports child health and nutrition, good water and sanitation, quality basic education for all boys and girls, and the protection of children from violence, exploitation, and AIDS. UNICEF is funded entirely by the voluntary contributions of individuals, businesses, foundations and governments. For more information about UNICEF and its work visit: www.unicef.org

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