

THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210305-yemen-aid.html>

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: <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2021/mar/02/weve-cut-aid-to-yemen-and-children-will-starve-is-this-what-global-britain-means>
<https://www.arabnews.com/node/1818566/world>
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yemen>

WARM-UPS

1. YEMEN: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about Yemen. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

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

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. RICH COUNTRIES: Students A **strongly** believe all rich countries should give more in aid to poor countries; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. CATASTROPHES: How do these catastrophes affect people? How can we help people affected? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	How It Affects People	How To Help
Famine		
War		
Pandemic		
Financial crisis		
Earthquake		
Flood		

5. FOREIGN: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "foreign". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

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

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

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. criticized | a. Spoke or wrote about things that are wrong with someone or something. |
| 2. cutting | b. Advanced. |
| 3. aid | c. Make smaller in size or amount. |
| 4. humanitarian | d. The fact or condition of being thought of as more important. |
| 5. priority | e. Help with money or other things. |
| 6. developed | f. Concerned with or doing things to care about and help people. |
| 7. population | g. All the people who live in a town, area, or country. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 8. catastrophic | h. A state where there is no food in a country or area to eat. |
| 9. crisis | i. A statement that you will hurt someone or do something bad to them. |
| 10. struggling | j. Sudden and great damage or suffering. |
| 11. threat | k. Suffering or dying because of no or little food. |
| 12. famine | l. A time of great difficulty, trouble, or danger. |
| 13. starving | m. Great sadness. |
| 14. tragic | n. Make big efforts to get free of something. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210305-yemen-aid.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- 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**

2. 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 |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| 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 |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210305-yemen-aid.html>

1. By how much will the UK cut its foreign aid?
2. Who does James Cleverly work for?
3. What kind of country did James Cleverly say Yemen would remain?
4. How many people are in need of help in Yemen?
5. Where does Yemen rank on the Global Hunger Index?
6. What does the article say there is a threat of in Yemen?
7. What does the article say a civil war has left in ruins?
8. When did a refugee say the last serious famine was?
9. How many Yemenis will go hungry this year?
10. Who said Yemenis are being starved?

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2103/210305-yemen-aid.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'foreign' and 'aid'.

foreign	aid

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• office• weeks• priority• least• need• second	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• crisis• threat• civil• 50,000• 280• starved
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YEMEN DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'Yemen'?
3. What do you think of foreign aid?
4. What aid does your country give to poorer nations?
5. Why do countries need humanitarian aid?
6. What do you know about Yemen?
7. Why is Yemen having so many problems?
8. How can we help the least developed countries?
9. Why do countries still need humanitarian aid in the 21st century?
10. How well developed is your country?

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YEMEN DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'aid'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What is a catastrophic humanitarian crisis?
15. What can we do to prevent famines?
16. What civil wars do you know about?
17. What do you know about famines around the world?
18. What do you think of the UK for cutting aid to Yemen?
19. Would you be happy if your country sent aid to other countries?
20. What questions would you like to ask the foreign office minister?