



**Bena Charity**  
For Human development

# TAIZ DURING A YEAR

A report on

The Humanitarian Situation  
from April 2015 to March 2016



## About "Bena Charity for Human Development"

Bena Charity for Human Development Taiz-Yemen is a non-governmental organization founded on June 20, 1996 and located in Taiz next to Taiz University. It has 20 committees at the district level and its main role is to manage the activities of about 300 volunteers, the activity on both sides: the development aspect about 65% and the caring aspect about 35%.

The basic mission of the foundation is excellence in the field of human services through the rehabilitation and development of the individual to become a positive member participating in constructing society. The association works in key sectors, including education, health, relief, development, care for orphans, and in the field of women and each of these sectors has many social and developmental projects that benefit thousands of community members.

It has determined goals and seeks to implement them: institutional, transparency, impartiality, networking, justice, teamwork, continuous improvement.

It is the main actor in the coalition of Humanitarian relief in Taiz, and has a lot of memberships, local and international partnerships including:

- The Coalition of Humanitarian Relief-Taiz
- Yemeni Development Network for NGOs - Yemen
- Arab Network For NGO's - Egypt
- The Federation of NGOs in the Muslim world-Turkey

It has carried out several projects in collaboration with local and international organizations, including:

- Humanitarian Forum Yemen (HFY) - Yemen
- Qatar Charity - Qatar
- Giz - Germany
- Pure Hands- America
- The US embassy in Sana'a
- Life for Relief & Development - UAE

It has a relationship with:

- IHH Turkey

- CARE UK

- HaRUm Malaysia.

as well as the participation in numerous local and international conferences pertaining to humanitarian work.

**Geographical Scope of the Report:**

Taiz Governorate, with a focus on the city districts (Alqahirah- Almudhafer- Salah)

**Reporting Period:**

The report monitored events and results from April 2015 until March 2016

**Report Method:**

We have adopted in the preparation of the report all the data and statistics from the observers and spotters of the Foundation and reports and news published by local and international organizations".

- The Coalition of Humanitarian Relief in Taiz

-Developmental care Institution (Ri'aayah Institution)

-Report on the violation of rights: Taiz

-Taiz Network Development

- The World Bank report on Yemen

- Report of the Committee of Education in Taiz.

- Local and Arab news sites

**Taiz City: Background**

Taiz is located in the southern region of Yemen, far from the capital Sana'a, about (256 km) and consists of (23) governorates (329) districts and (1.877) villages, maintaining an area of around (10008) square kilometers. Taiz is considered to be the cultural capital of Yemen and the first city of the Yemeni governorate in the number of population where the number of inhabitants, according to statistical estimates of the Central Statistics Bureau for 2015, were about (3,102,836) inhabitants. The people constitutes (12.2%) of the total population of the Republic, according to the same source, the population of Taiz in the three districts (Alqahirah- Almudhafer- Salah) and the nearby areas reached nearly one and a half million.

## A photo showing a side of Taiz



### (1) The General Situation in Taiz

After 11 months of war, the picture looks bleak in Taiz, where it suffers from a tragic situation at all levels. Therefore, in accordance with what has been monitored since April 2015 until the mid of March 8, 2016 through the report of Developmental care Institution (Ri'aayah Institution), specialized in martyrs and wounded fields that "a total of 2044 civilians killed including 1,832 people who are the victims of Al- Huthi and Saleh while the injured are about 10689 people including 10,635 (the victims of Al- Huthi and Saleh) since the beginning of the war" .

**Table (1) shows civilian casualties of war because of Al-Huthi and Saleh forces in Taiz**

No.	Category	Killed	Injured
1	Children	204	848
2	Women	144	451
3	Men	1484	9336
Total		1832	10635

**Table (2) shows civilian casualties of indiscriminate attack by Saudi Arabia-led coalition in Taiz**

No.	Category	Killed	Injured
1	Children	74	19
2	Women	76	11
3	Men	62	24
Total		212	54

The Yemeni government has announced Taiz as a war-stricken province on August 24, 2015, and the percentage of displacement of citizens to the countryside and neighboring cities during the first six months of the war was about 70%, which forms an additional burden on their families and hosts in the cities and rural areas. On the other side, the war had a direct impact on all aspects of life that caused the loss of thousands of families to their sources of income. Furthermore, the houses, hospitals, schools, factories, shops and all other civilian infrastructure have been hit because of the clashes and indiscriminate targeting that practiced by the Al-Houthi and the forces of former President Ali Saleh. Al-Houthi armed forces and Saleh, must stop all indiscriminate attack on civilian areas, including Taiz.

With the continuation of the war, a suffocating blockade has been imposed on the inhabitants of Taiz, Al-Houthi and Saleh forces sealed off all roads leading into the city, preventing the access of all food supplies, medical materials and oxygen for hospitals, according to the speech of Samantha Power, the US ambassador to the UN Security Council: "This suffering is being significantly and unnecessarily compounded by preventing assistance from getting through, from reaching those who need it most, children are suffering

from malnutrition, people will do the impossible to feed their families".

For its part, the World Health Organization on December 17, 2015 has published in the United Nations site - Sana'a: "The city of Taiz is under actual siege, 200,000 people are in need of water and other basic foodstuffs."

Alerts and warning have been issued for the tragic situation in Taiz if it is not addressed quickly.

The following table illustrates the magnitude of the disaster:

Table (3) illustrates the general situation in Taiz

No.	Item	Number and Percentage	Notes
1	Displaced Citizens	70%	of the total population of war areas to rural and other cities
2	Absence of public services	100%	total absence of public services (Electricity- water- cleaning)
3	Closing hospitals and health-care centers	90%	
4	Closing factories	90%	shut down and stop working completely
5	Layoffs	75%	Workers stopped working completely
6	General damage of civilians houses	3519	Private and public houses and properties
7	Damaged and destroyed public water tanks	5	

## **(2)The Economic Aspect:**

The economic situation in Taiz is considered the worst in the city compared to other provinces according to the periodical report published by the Center for Studies and Economic Media for December, 2015 that "Taiz governorate is most suffering from the lack of domestic gas, gasoline and diesel, where the gas cylinder price in the black market arrived to nearly \$ 40, rising more than 500% from the official rate, while the price of oil exceeded 500 % and 300% diesel.

But in January and February, 2016 and due to the continuing blockade of the city, a lot of basic foodstuffs, especially wheat, flour and milk as well as vegetables and fruits have disappeared from the markets and this caused the rise of prices to more than 300% for the remaining of foodstuffs in the markets and for a cylinder gas to more 500%. As for the petrol and diesel, they have risen more than 300%, according to a field study conducted by the researchers. Prices setback partially, after the siege of the West and South region, while the Eastern and northern region are still closed.

As a result of the war and the siege of civilians, workers in the private sectors or in daily business such as transportation, construction, carpentry or others are unemployed and have no source of income. "The Houthi armed forces have not only prevented the entry of Humanitarian assistance provided by the World Food Program, but rather they prevented citizens from buying outside the blockade zones after disallowing the owners of groceries to make the goods available to people," according to the network of local observers report in January 2016.

The number of the poor has increased alarmingly in Yemen, where poverty index reached more than 20 million, according to the statistics of the World Bank. The bank said in its latest Quarterly Economic Brief: "The number of poor people in Yemen increased from 12 million before the war, to more than 20 million, after more than 10 months of the outbreak of the war, which killed six thousand civilians", according to The United Nations Statistics. According to the report published on the bank website, 80 % of Yemen's population are considered poor, after the arrival of the figure to 20 million out of 24 million people, an increase of 30% since April 2015, when the fighting has intensified. Besides, owing to lack of oil derivatives, the price of water vehicles has increased, where the cost of water has reached 3,000 liter to more than \$ 65, according to the report issued by The Coalition of the Humanitarian Relief in Taiz.

In the same report, issued by the Center for Studies and Economic Media that "local banks continue to desist supplying the Yemeni market in hard currency (Dollar- Euro) in the light of the continuity of revitalizing the black market with high prices, the average of dollar exchange rate against the Yemeni riyal is 245 riyals, a difference of exchange rate 14% compared to the price approved by the central bank.

The Houthi armed forces and Saleh have prevented entering the financial liquidity of commercial banks and exchange companies since September .

### **(3) Health Aspect:**

Taiz is placed at the top of the list of the needy governorates to emergency medical assistance and rehabilitation of health facilities, because the health system completely collapsed with the continuous siege on the city and the districts. Many hospitals and health facilities were targeted by Al-Houthi armed forces and Saleh, causing direct destruction of about 50% of the Al-Thawra General Hospital sections, including the departments of major operations, the central laboratory, the ward and burns, destroying the ward and cardiology sections within 30% of Al-Jumhuri Hospital that were completely destroyed, according to a report of human rights violations, issued in February 2016, which has been monitored by seven civil society organizations in Taiz.

Most hospitals have stopped receiving emergency cases and many sections have been shut down due to lack of medicines and oxygen and petroleum products such as Al-Rawdhaw, Al-Thawra, Al-Jumhuri and others according to the appeals launched by these hospitals. Those hospitals said that there are cases of death due to lack of oxygen and dialysis drugs. Yemen International Hospital, the largest health facility which has been occupied by Al-Houthi stopped receiving cases from Taiz and the neighboring provinces until now because Al-Houthi armed forces used the area for Artillery shelling on the neighborhood. Similarly, the Cancer Hospital, Motherhood and Childhood Center were closed after being bombed and destructed and then they have been taken as military barracks for Al-Houthi group and Saleh, which led to the death and damage of many health facilities preventing thousands of people from accessing health.

With the continuation of war and blockade and preventing access of medications, medical solutions and cylinders of oxygen, these hospitals almost stopped entirely before lifting the blockade of the west part of Taiz. Accordingly, some hospitals and departments have returned to work gradually and the oxygen began to access better than before, but this does not meet the full requirements because of the continuation of the war and blockade of the other vital regions.

All these tragic circumstances of bombing, siege, stopping and closing health facilities have led to deprive thousands of patients from reaching hospitals and health centers and deprive them of their right to health-care and medication.

**Table (5) shows the Health-care aspect which has been monitored in Taiz**

Item	Number and Percentage	Notes
Closing & stopping hospitals and health-care facilities	90%	
Deaths due to lack of oxygen	17	
Deaths in kidney sections	133	due to reduced dialysis treatment as a result of shelling and lack of solutions
Abortion Cases	90	As a result of the shelling and the inability to get to the hospital
Affection of Cancer patients	5500	60% women&13% children
Depriving the newborns of immunization and health-care	3000	
Shelling and targeting health facilities	7	
Transforming health facilities to military barracks	3	

#### **(4) Educational Aspect:**

As a result of the outbreak of war, there was a remarkably deterioration situation and paralysis in education at all educational levels, from basic education in schools through technical, technological



institutes and the universities, where many of the direct reasons overlapped to stop and deteriorate the education in the city. This is most notably in the use of educational institutions as the military barracks, moreover, the destruction, the theft and looting of some educational facilities and the destruction of some of the record forms and the displacement of a lot of educational cadres. Additionally, the use of those facilities as shelters after the displacement of thousands of families to them, where the displaced people lived in 98 schools, as noted in a recent report of education, in participation with Bena foundation with six civil organizations and government offices.

**Table (6) Education Indicators in Taiz**

Number	Character
1624	Government and private schools in Taiz
850000	Students enrolled in general education in all schools
42878	Workforce in public education
16	Technical and vocational government and private institutes
9000	Enrolled students in technical and vocational education
8	The number of government and private universities
40,000	Students in public and private universities

#### **(4.1) Schools:**

The number of students is about (850,000), and the war has caused the closure of 520 government and private schools which represent one-third of the province schools, depriving nearly 300,000 thousand students of continuing their education and completing the school year (2014 -2015), and their results were based on the first semester findings of the same year. According to the Education monitoring report, about 248 violated schools of which 20 came under direct bombing and destroyed completely and 78 schools partially looted, and 50 schools were used for military work and 98 schools used as the shelters for the displaced, and 4 damaged educational offices as a result of direct attack in the districts.

With the prolonged war, rural schools which are located away from the events began to open their doors and teaching started gradually, accompanied by some difficulties such as lack of a textbook but far better than the schools which are located in the city, where most of them are out of service either to turn them into a military barracks or because they are destructive or used as houses for the displaced. What is left of those houses is very small where the study began after 3 months of school attendance and in extremely difficult circumstances. The community-based initiatives have worked to open 50 alternative educational centers, abandoned houses or mosques where minimum standards are not available. According to activists in the educational field, there were many difficulties, including lack of space and sitting on the floor and the lack

of all the teachers and the textbooks, in addition to the indiscriminate shelling that the residential neighborhoods were exposed to, which led those educational centers to stop occasionally.

#### (4.2) Institutes:

The war led to the interruption of the educational process in all technical and vocational institutes and health maintenance up to present day. The militants of Al-Houthi and Saleh have broken into Technical Education Office of the governorate and used five affiliated institutes for military actions and stores of weapons, four of them were subjected to direct bombing and some training workshops at the institutes to theft, looting or destruction. Similarly, some of the community colleges have been used as evacuation centers for displaced citizen. All institutes in Taiz have completely stopped, whether Government or private institutes which were complementary to schools as well as for qualifying secondary school graduates in vocational and technical areas, health and human development.

#### (4.3) Universities:

Taiz University is the only largest university in Taiz where education is still fully stopped because the militants of Al-Houthi and Saleh used them as military barracks facilities and weapon stores to the moment of writing this report. They also have entered heavy weapons of various kinds, which led to be the target of Saudi-led coalition repeatedly. All of the seven private universities have been closed, four of which directly hit by the bombing and missiles of the militants, even the university students of over (40.000) thousand were unable to complete the last year 2014-2015.

**Table (7) Status of education and damage in various educational sectors in Taiz**

Education Type	Total	Working	Closed	Total destruction	Partial destruction	Sheltering the displaced	for Military actions	Total affected
Public Education (Schools)	1624	1176	451	20	80	98	50	248
Technical and Vocational Education (institutes)	16	-	16	2	3	1	4	10
Higher Education (Universities)	8	-	8	-	4	-	1	5
Health Institutes	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	3

## **(5) Services (infrastructure):**

The power station has been targeted and Al-Jabalain dam has also been destroyed that contains oil and gas stocks for Taiz. The interruption of public services, including electricity, water and sanitation arrived to 100%, and this had a direct impact on the lives of patients in nephrology departments, the spread of epidemics diseases and dengue fever because of garbage in the streets and nearby buildings and houses as well. Moreover, many roads have been closed because of the clashes, sniping and siege of the militia to limit the movement of people and vehicles, as well as the landline phone service was interrupted in areas controlled by pro-government forces with intermittent internet services.

On December 21, 2015, the internet and landline phone services were cut off from the city because of the lack of fuel that are used to run the pylons and mobile stations but returned the same day intermittently. However, the landline phone services were cut off since last November when the militia fired exploding shells at the switchboard of the General Organization for Telecommunications.

As for wireless networks, there exists three network companies which are very weak operators. Wireless network connection occasionally keeps dropping out because of the difficulty in providing fuel for the generators that provide energy to fortifying masts and because of deliberate targeting by the militia. Yet, the wireless service to all companies is well maintained in the rest of the districts.

On the other hand, there are stops of services up to 100% in all government offices such as passport services, post offices, register of civil status, insurance companies, health offices and the judiciary, courts and other offices, which impact negatively on the lives of the people. There has been deliberate targeting for Telecommunication Organization, the General Post Office, Tax and Finance in addition to the buildings of the Central Bank, Security Management, buildings of Passports and Local Authority within the districts of Alqahirah- Almodhafer, Almisrakh and Saber Almadawadem, as noted in the report of local network monitors- January 2016.

**Table No. (8) shows the status of services in Taiz**

No.	Item	Number & Percentage	Notes
1	Lack of electricity	100%	
2	Lack of water project	100%	
3	Lack of cleanliness	70%	
4	Road transport	50%	
5	Presence of government offices	85%	
6	Availability of Landline phones and network	50%	
7	Availability of mobile networks	60%	
8	Closing factories	90%	Shut down completely & stopped working

9	Destruction of houses and private facilities	3519	
10	Damaged & useless public water tanks	5	
11	Availability of oil derivatives	100%	Only available on the black market in double prices

#### (5) The displaced:

War forced 2.5 million Yemenis to leave their homes due to fighting in the cities in which they live, many of them were forced to move from the category of home owners to tenants in safe areas, according to *sada Aden* (Aden News network), February 7, 2016.

In Taiz, many of the people have displaced, and the percentage of displacement during the first six months of the war of about 70% fled to the countryside and neighboring cities. This added an additional burden on their families and their hosts in rural areas, thus, they are in need for immediate intervention and shelter assistance.

The displaced citizens seek refuge in Taiz schools which are nearly 98 in number. The number of those displaced people from Taiz to rural areas and other provinces is more than 3.1 million people, according to the statistics issued by the coalition of Humanitarian relief of Taiz in November 2015.

But the situation is eased slightly after the siege of the western region, where some families have begun to return to their homes despite warnings from the local authority that there were planted landmines being removed from the roads and neighborhoods and places where the clashes occurred.

The more we elaborate the issue of the displaced, the bigger the problem will be. The following table shows the scale of the disaster in this area:

**Table (9) shows the situation of displaced citizens in Taiz**

No.	Issue	Number
1	Number of shelter centers	74
2	Number of the displaced	1,300,000

**(6) The contribution of Bena Charity For Human Development:**

In partnership with local and international organizations, Bena Charity for Human Development has contributed to relief projects (food - shelter materials - Public-supply water) to the affected people. The displaced citizens in 11 districts, which have benefits for (19.755) families, (118 530) per person at a cost of (281 388 660) Yemeni Riyal.

**Table (10) shows the contribution of the foundation in relief of Taiz in partnership with local and international organizations**

No.	Activity	Project Cost (Yemeni Riyal)	Number of Beneficiaries (Families)	Place of Execution	Date of Execution
1	Relief project 1	3,500,000	500	Alqahirah ,Almudhafer& Salah	May-2015
2	Relief project 2	5,600,000	400	Alqahirah,Almudhafer& Salah	June-2015
3	Relief project 3	1,654,500	125	Altabi'avah-Ala'bus	July-2015
4	Relief project for displaced families 1	5,160,000	459	Salah,Alta'izyah&Almawast	July-2015
5	Food parcel project for the poorest 1	400,540	600	Almawast&Almadinah	July-2015
6	Food parcel project for the poorest 2	1,080,000	190	Altabi'avah-Ala'bus	July-2015
7	Food parcel project for the poorest 3	1,305,000	75	Almawast, Alqahirah ,Almudhafer& Salah	July-2015
8	Food parcel project for the poorest 4	4,292,400	377	Almawast	July-2015
9	Relief project for displaced families 2	4,650,000	500	Ashmayatain	July-2015
10	Food parcel project for the poorest 5	2,644,000	293	Alqahirah ,Almudhafer& Salah	July-2015
11	Public-supply water project	1,128,270	7200	Alqahirah ,Almudhafer& Salah	Currently
12	Relief project 4	2,655,000	208	Alqahirah ,Almudhafer& Salah	September -2015
13	Meat distribution project	7,739,950	566	Almawast, Alqahirah ,Almudhafer, Salah&Havfan	September -2015
14	Relief project 5	21,000,000	1000	Alqahirah ,Almudhafer& Salah	October-2015
15	Relief project 6	6,596,000	570	Almawast, Alqahirah ,Almudhafer& Salah	December-2015
16	Relief project 7	6,711,000	550	Almawast,Almadinah&,Mashraa'h	December-2015

				wahadnan	
17	Relief project 7	10,272,000	642	Ashmayatain,Almawast&jabal habashi	January-2016
18	Project of Distribution of shelter materials to the displaced	195,000,000	6000	Alqahirah ,Almudhafer, Salah, jibal habashi, Almawast,Alma'afer Mashraa'h wahadnan, Alta 'izyah&Almawadem	January & February 2016
<b>Total</b>		<b>281,388,660 (Yemeni Riyal)</b>		<b>19755 (Families)</b>	

**(7) Needs of Taiz governorate:**

Item	Emergency and urgent needs	Post-war needs
Public education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Providing alternative learning centers for schools</li> <li>-Encouraging alternative educational initiatives for regular schools</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rehabilitation of general education students</li> <li>- Administrative qualification for school principals</li> <li>-Educational qualification for mentors</li> <li>- Reconstructing schools affected by the war</li> <li>- Typical Modern educational furniture</li> </ul>
University education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Accommodation with all needs for university students who attended colleges in the neighboring governorates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Reconstructing the destroyed universities</li> <li>-Modern furniture for laboratories and University departments</li> </ul>
Basic services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Operating wells ( water pumps) that provide neighborhoods with water</li> <li>-Providing clean drinking water for 2 million people, an average of three liters per person per day</li> <li>-Providing houses with water for 2 million people, an average of three liters per person per day</li> <li>-Operating rural water pumps</li> <li>-Cleaning the garbage from markets, streets and neighborhoods in a sustained way</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Establishment of a desalination plant to provide fresh water for all</li> <li>-Paving roads (Asphalt resurfacing) that were destroyed</li> </ul>

	-Filtering water courses of impurities	
The displaced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Provision of shelter camps where all basic services are available</li> <li>-Providing mobile health clinic for follow-up care of displaced citizens and protection from the spread of epidemic diseases</li> <li>-Establishing educational centers in camps of displaced people</li> <li>-Having Courses in psychological support for the displaced</li> <li>-Training the displaced persons in handicraft production for their benefit in the future</li> <li>-Financial aid for displaced families as rent assistance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Furnishing the houses of the displaced people after the war for their returning homes</li> <li>-Launching income-generating projects for the displaced on the basis of the professions that have been acquired in the accommodation centers</li> </ul>
Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Distribution of the monthly food parcel for the displaced</li> <li>-Distribution of the monthly food parcel for the victims</li> </ul>	