



Kingdom of the Netherlands



UNITED NATIONS
YEMEN



Key messages for the pledging event on the FSO Safer – 11 May

(Updated 3-May-2022)

The Government of the Netherlands and the United Nations will co-host a pledging event in The Hague on 11 May to support the UN-coordinated operational plan to address the threat of an oil spill from the FSO Safer, an aging tanker off Yemen's Red Sea coast holding one million barrels of oil. A major spill would result in a humanitarian and environmental catastrophe and have profound economic costs across the region.

- **Moored off the Red Sea coast of Yemen, the FSO Safer is a rapidly decaying supertanker at risk of a major oil spill from breaking apart or an explosion that could occur at any time.** The result would be a humanitarian and environmental catastrophe with its epicenter on the coast of a country already devastated by more than seven years of war.
- **The UN-coordinated plan to address the threat has the necessary support of the parties to the conflict and key stakeholders.** The planned operation comprises the installation of a replacement vessel or equivalent capacity and a four-month emergency operation to transfer the oil to a safe temporary vessel before it is too late.
- **Success is contingent on urgent funding.** We need donors to commit the funds in coming weeks or the weather window to transfer the oil will shut. By October, high winds and volatile currents make the operation more dangerous and increase the risk of the ship breaking up. The world needs to act now or the time bomb will continue ticking.

The cost of the UN-coordinated plan

- The budget for the two-track plan is \$144 million, including \$80 million urgently required for the emergency operation.

Note: *this figure assumes the installation of an FSO as the long-term solution.*

The high cost of inaction

- A major spill would devastate fishing communities on Yemen's Red Sea coast, with 200,000 livelihoods potentially wiped out instantly. Whole communities would be exposed to life-threatening toxins. Highly polluted air would affect millions of people.
- A major spill could close the nearby ports of Hodeidah and Saleef – which are essential to bring food, fuel and life-saving supplies into a country where 17 million people need food assistance. Desalination plants on the Red Sea coast could be closed, cutting off a water source for millions of people.
- The environmental impact on water, reefs and life-supporting mangroves on Yemen's coast and potentially across the Red Sea would be severe.
- The cost of cleanup alone is estimated at \$20 billion. Disruptions to shipping through the Bab al-Mandab strait to the Suez Canal could cost billions more every day.
- Tens of millions of dollars in funding now will save tens of billions of dollars in the future.

For further information, please contact:

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