

Concept Note: UK-Sweden Humanitarian Week Side Event

‘Averting famine in Yemen: what can we do now and in 2021?’

DATE/TIME

10 December 0900-1030 EST//1400-1530 GMT//1500-1630 CET

CO-HOSTS

HE Dame Barbara Woodward, *UK Ambassador and Permanent Representative to UN* and **HE Anna Karin Eneström** *Swedish Ambassador and Permanent Representative to UN*

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

- **Mr. Per Olsson Fridh**, *Swedish State Secretary for International Development Cooperation*
- **Nick Dyer**, *UK Special Envoy for Famine Prevention and Humanitarian Affairs*
- **Mark Lowcock**, *UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator*
- **Henrietta Fore**, *Executive Director UNICEF*
- **Amir Abdulla**, *Deputy Executive Director, WFP*
- **Dr Sawsan Al Refaei**, *Board Member of Youth Leadership and Development Foundation in Yemen and member of Yemeni Women’s Pact for Peace and Security*

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

On 20th November, the Secretary General warned that Yemen is in “imminent danger of the worst famine the world has seen for decades” and called for urgent action on the part of the international community to “stave off catastrophe”. New IPC data, released on Thursday 3 December, showed that thousands of Yemenis are now living in famine conditions, at high risk of death. We know that, unless significant funding is urgently provided soon, the number of people who do not have enough food will rise drastically – leading to the highest level of food insecurity ever seen in Yemen.

This event will bring the international community and the UN together to confront what the new IPC data on famine in Yemen means for the humanitarian situation. It offers member states an opportunity to act now, and to look ahead to 2021 in order to think collectively about what more can be done to address the drivers of the crisis.