

# CHRONICLES FROM THE FIELD

Special issue #5



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GAAC



# AFGHANISTAN

## AN UNPRECEDENTED OPERATION

Despite a worsening situation, the Afghan authorities decided at the end of December to ban Afghan women from working in national and international humanitarian organisations. This decision was strongly condemned by Première Urgence Internationale, which stresses that the commitment of women health professionals is crucial to improving the general health of the Afghan population. More than 300 of them provide the bulk of maternal and child medical care by our side today.

In Afghanistan, where we continue to operate, more than half of the population is in need of humanitarian aid in a country with a shortage of medicines. In mid-December, we successfully completed a major operation: 98 tonnes of medicines, medical equipment and nutritional inputs were flown into Kabul to help nearly 500,000 people. This is the largest shipment sent since our intervention in the country began in 1979.



© Première Urgence Internationale  
| The unique site of Al Bureij in the Gaza Strip is  
threatened by climatic conditions.



# OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY

## PRESERVING PALESTINE'S ENDANGERED HERITAGE

In recent years, Gazans have witnessed a steady increase in rainfall and the occurrence of severe winter storms (sand and rain) within a few months due to climate change. According to the Palestinian Water Authority, in just a few days, recent rainfall has reached 73% of the annual rainfall rate in the Gaza Strip, and this heavy rainfall has a direct and indirect impact on Palestinian archaeological remains.

An emergency preservation programme was launched with the support of UNESCO and the British Council Cultural Protection Fund to temporarily save the mosaic pavements of Al Bureij from heavy winter rains. But a long-term solution is also needed. Our teams are studying the possibility of building permanent protective roofs to protect the monastery of St Hilarion.

© Gwenn Dubourthoumieu

| A nurse measures a child's arm circumference to detect malnutrition.



# CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

## CHILD MALNUTRITION A PRIORITY

The nutritional situation in the Central African Republic is very worrying. In 2021, 205,642 children needed urgent treatment for global acute malnutrition, including 62,327 children aged 6 to 59 months suffering from severe acute malnutrition and at risk of dying without immediate treatment.

Première Urgence Internationale intervenes in Bangui, in 14 health centres, in order to provide free care to malnourished children and their carers. In one year, our teams screened 116,739 children for malnutrition. They also treated 3,469 children for severe acute malnutrition and referred 351 children to hospital for complications. In addition, 4,326 parents and carers, together with their children, received psychosocial support. The fight against malnutrition also involves the transmission of information upstream through community focal points.



## CHAD

### ONE MILLION PEOPLE FLOODED

Overflowing rivers, ravaged land, loss of livestock... The heavy rains last October in Chad caused a catastrophic situation for 166,965 families, or more than one million people, in a large part of the country. "And meanwhile, the needs are piling up," deplors Alpha Koita, Head of Mission of Première Urgence Internationale in Chad. "More than 120,000 people are said to be in need of assistance in food security, shelter, water and sanitation, health and nutrition, among other priority sectors. Possible river flooding in the coming weeks would only aggravate an already worrying situation."

More than 450,000 hectares of land are said to be unusable and nearly 20,000 heads of livestock have been washed away, which risks worsening the already very poor food security situation at a national level. Première Urgence Internationale immediately set up a primary health care clinic, which provided over 500 consultations. Among them, cases of severe malnutrition were detected and treated. The teams also distributed hygiene kits, water purification products and mosquito nets, primarily to pregnant women in order to prevent the transmission of disease. They have also built 32 emergency shelters.



© Olya Ostin

| Winter is an additional enemy for populations made vulnerable by the war.



# UKRAINE

## POPULATIONS FACING WAR AND BITTER COLD

One year after the beginning of the Russian invasion, Première Urgence Internationale teams continue to respond to the most urgent needs of the civilian populations affected by the conflict. In Kharkiv, our mobile team goes to the collective reception centres to meet displaced people in areas particularly affected by the war.

This mobile team offers health, mental health and protection consultations for displaced civilians whose access to care has been limited by the fighting. Première Urgence Internationale teams are present in the regions of Lviv in the west, and Dnipro, Poltava, Kharkiv and Donetsk in the east, close to the front line.

To cope with the conditions of displacement, as winter is in full swing, they provide direct assistance to Ukrainians with distributions of essential goods in collective accommodation centres. For more sustainable aid, our teams also provide equipment to health centres and local organisations. By the end of November, the World Health Organisation had recorded 715 attacks on health facilities in Ukraine. "By distributing winter equipment, we are helping to meet the growing and urgent needs of health facilities in the region and the country, in cooperation with the Kharkiv Region Health Department," says Simon Ford-Coron, deputy base coordinator in Dnipro.

© Haifa Khaled Noman  
| In addition to malnutrition, Yemeni people  
also face psychological shocks.



# YEMEN

## MOTHER-CHILD SPACES TO SUPPORT WOMEN

In a country affected by war for almost 10 years, women are bearing the brunt of the catastrophic living conditions. Our teams have set up safe and welcoming spaces so that mothers (often in a state of great distress) can receive help, particularly psychosocial help. These mother-child spaces are also essential in Première Urgence Internationale's fight against malnutrition, in a country where more than eight million people are in need of vital nutritional aid, including 2.2 million children under the age of five and 1.3 million pregnant or breastfeeding women. These spaces are used to disseminate key messages on this subject.

In Yemen, Première Urgence Internationale has been present and active since 2007, providing assistance to the most vulnerable populations in areas affected by the conflict. We have set up three mother-child spaces in southern Yemen, which welcomed nearly 3,000 women between May 2021 and July 2022.

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## QUESTIONS?

Feel free to get in touch

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