**Update Yemen Mobile Health (YMH)**

* I have worked closely with a local website developer in Liverpool. He has done amazing work as a mentor and problem solver with a very little cost. He deserves better pay when we have the funding. The result is that we now have a functional website: <https://yemenmobilehealth.org/>
* So far, he does the main technical work and I do the day to day maintenance. It’s time consuming but there’s no way around it.
* We have left translation for now until later date and when we have enough funding for translation, we will make sure anything on the website will be bilingual. I have done the necessary translation. I enquired about the click of a button between Arabic and English and I was told that the cost would be extortionate.
* A team of 3 in the US volunteered to join the project, a technical manager, a doctor, and a designer. All 3 are from Yemeni background. I worked with the doctor to select missing messages necessary for Yemen needs. The designer produced 20 new images of high quality for free. The technical manager advised on dos and don’ts with technical solutions and made suggestions what to do. It was extremely useful collaboration between UK and US, using virtual zoom meeting.
* After consultation with YMH steering group, we changed focus from cholera to Covid 19 at the moment. The messages are sent via WhatsApp regularly now twice a week. We send them to Yemen contacts and contacts in UK and US who requested that they would prefer to send the messages themselves to their family and friends in Yemen.
* Saferworld asked for support from the project and organised a virtual zoom meeting with a group of Civil Society Organisations (CSO) in Aden, Taiz, Hadhramout, and Maareb responding to their numerous questions about Covid 19. After the meeting, all their questions were answered by Dr Sam Ghebrehewet a consultant in PHE North West and sent back to senders.
* Since then some individuals continue to be in touch to understand the Covid situation in Aden specifically. This led to one of the CSOs in Aden being one of the speakers at the British Yemeni Society AGM on 19th June 2020.
* Another virtual zoom meeting arranged by Dr Bayad Nozad with Dr Sahl Aleryani discussing Covid 19 in Sanaa in particular and Yemen in General. This led to Dr Aleryani also being invited to the British Yemeni Society AGM and he will be one of the virtual speakers from Sanaa at the conference.
* We contacted Saferworld and discussed if they would partner with YMH. They agreed before the lockdown and because of the furlough, they have lost staff members and the official partnership is on hold at the moment. However, we have an unofficial partnership working when time commitment is allowed.
* A tourist operator in Dublin heard about YMH and got in touch. She sent us a long list of contacts in Yemen and contacts in other countries of Yemenis she used to work with. She used to have an office in Sanaa.
* The use of Twitter and Facebook are still in developmental phase. A social media guru offered a couple of hours training next week and we will see how it goes afterwards.
* Attempted Focus Group Discussion (FGD) on Wednesday 3rd June failed due to technical problems in Yemen.
* Another FGD was run on Saturday 6th June 2020 with a small group of participants from Taiz. All went well, notes, and suggestions will be summarised for improvements.
* Our message is that we will continue sending Covid 19 messages until the end of August 2020. Then we will evaluate the process and the responses from participants. We will not be able to evaluate the outcome.
* So far, we have got two types of feedback about YMH messaging services;
  1. Positive: People who are front line volunteers or people in the UK who have family and friends in Yemen believe that what YMH is doing is what’s needed at the moment. The reason being is that there are often conflicting messages about Covid 19 in Yemen. If YMH is able to send evidence based preventive messages, they are more than welcome. An example is that a Yemeni in the UK offered and rewrote the text accompanied with the messages to make them clearer and better.
  2. Challenging: What YMH is doing has already been done and it is better in Yemen and there’s no need to send messages in this way. People I have talked to and who hold this view are people who used to get or deal with big sums of funding for the voluntary sector in Yemen. This funding is drying up due to security reasons in Yemen. Most of donor agencies left the country.
* With Ann Hoskins, contributed to the attached letter sent to the UK Prime Minister.
* Supporting the chair of the British Yemeni Society organising the AGM’s panel discussion on 19th June 2020 specifically on Covid 19.

**Expectations from YMH Team/ for discussion**

It’s still early for receiving feedback from users of the messages.

*-Is this a concern and we should do something about it or carry on as planned until* *the end of August 2020?*

I have got a few people subscribed to the project. Saferworld has long been using WhatsApp and Facebook for peace building education in Yemen.

They pay people on the ground for the work they do. We might need to recruit people in Yemen to promote the project and there will be cost attached with this move. We simply don’t have the budget at the moment.

* *Should we formally negotiate with Saferworld once the furlough time is over?*

Taher Ali Qassim Thursday 11th June 2020