

Aid group warns of Yemen dengue epidemic after 78 child deaths

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At least 78 children in war-torn Yemen have died from dengue-related illnesses, Save the Children said Tuesday, warning of an epidemic.

"Seventy-eight children under 16 have already died in the outbreak of dengue-related illness in Yemen, with more than 52,000 suspected cases being recorded across the country," the aid group said in a statement.

It added this "could signal the start of an epidemic".

Save the Children said that a total of 192 people have died in Yemen last year from dengue-related illnesses—most cases reported in the port cities of Hodeida and Aden.

"Hodeida has the second highest death rate in the country with 62 adult and [children](#) deaths in 2019. We have never seen anything like this before," said Save the Children's field coordinator in Yemen, Mariam Aldogani, herself recovering from [dengue fever](#).

"More than 40 of our staff including their families have been affected by the fever."

According to the Red Cross in November, Yemen was already grappling with an [epidemic](#) of the viral disease, which is transmitted by several species of mosquito that breed in stagnant water.

Tens of thousands of people, mostly civilians, have been killed and

millions pushed to the brink of famine since a Saudi-led military coalition intervened against Iran-aligned Shiite rebels in 2015.

It has generated what the United Nations has termed the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

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