



UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME - JOB DESCRIPTION

I. Position Information

Job Title: Economic Affairs Specialist	Grade Level: P4	Position Number: 205181
Department: UNDP YEMEN	Bureau: RBAS	Position designation: with no mobility requirement
Reports to: Team Leader for Governance and Peacebuilding, UNDP Yemen	Direct Reports: None	Duty Station: Amman, Jordan

Career Track: Professional/Expert

Career Stream: Policy/Programme

Contract Modality: FTA International (Seconded Expert)

Contract Duration: Initially 1 year contract with the possibility of extension subject to satisfactory performance for up to a maximum of three years

II. Background and Organizational Context

Yemen has over the last nine years experienced one of the world's worst protracted political, humanitarian and development crises. The crisis has left 23.5 million people in need of humanitarian assistance according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Following the Stockholm agreement in December 2018, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2452 (2019), establishing the United Nations Mission to support the Hodeidah Agreement (UNMHA) to facilitate the ceasefire agreement. Following the Stockholm agreement, UNDP's Peace Support Facility (PSF) for Yemen was established in 2019. The PSF aims to accelerate the implementation of the agreements reached by the parties during negotiations led by the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy to Yemen. PSF implements initiatives in direct support of priorities discussed during peace consultations to build confidence in the peace process and improve the lives of people affected by the conflict. The aim is to demonstrate concrete alternatives to conflict, create local demand for peace and incentivize parties to deepen their engagement in the Yemeni peace process under UN auspices. The PSF recently entered its second phase, to which donors reconfirmed past commitments and UN senior management has renewed ambition.

In late December 2023, the UN Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen (OESGY), announced the parties' commitment to a set of measures to implement a nation-wide ceasefire, improve living conditions in Yemen, and engage in preparations for the resumption of an inclusive political process under UN auspices. The Special Envoy will now engage with the parties to establish a roadmap under that includes these commitments and supports their implementation. The UN roadmap will include, among other elements, the parties' commitment to implement a nationwide ceasefire, pay all public sector salaries, resume oil exports, open roads in Taiz and other parts of Yemen, and further ease restrictions on Sana'a Airport and the Hudaydah port. The roadmap will also establish implementation mechanisms and prepare for a Yemeni-owned political process under UN auspices.

Yemen is effectively two separate entities from a fiscal and macro-economic point, with two distinct economic zones under the administrative control and regulation of Ansar Allah (AA) and the internationally recognized Government of Yemen (GoY). As part of the negotiations, several economic issues need to be addressed, including but not limited to the resumption of oil and gas production and export, the payment of civil servants' salaries, the unification of the currency and the central bank and the interim and future fiscal structure of the state. This gives rise to an economic track, which is organized in close coordination with the political and security tracks.

UNDP has continuously supported the objectives of the Special Envoy, through the UNDP-implemented Peace Support Facility (PSF). Since the Facility's establishment, it has implemented national and local peace agreements, along with subnational peacebuilding projects with significant support to local mediation. In addition, the PSF has provided bespoke high-level research to deepen the knowledge foundation of the Special Envoy and his thematic teams. The PSF will over the next years, continue to support the Special Envoy, including on the economic issues mentioned above. The Economic Affairs Specialist will provide key economic insight to the Special Envoy while providing direction for the PSF on engagement with, and support to, OESGY on the economic track.

III. Position Purpose

The position is located in the OSESGY offices in Amman, Jordan. The incumbent will report directly to UNDP Yemen Team Leader for Governance and Peacebuilding and support the Special Envoy's Senior Economic Advisor, while identify opportunities for collaboration between UNDP and OSESGY on the economic track.

The economic unit at OSESGY supports the Special Envoy's efforts to mediate between the Parties. The economic track seeks to move the parties from a value extractive to a value creative mindset, by show casing the peace dividends of collaboration. The economic track is unique in that by collaborating the Parties can create value, while contesting the economy and engaging on weaponization of the economy results in value destruction. The unit provides key economic analysis, provides shuttle or direct diplomacy and mediation between the Parties on all economic matters, to ensure de-escalation, deliver Confidence Building Measures and progress on the roadmap in close collaboration with the other units. The PSF Team provides key programmatic interventions in support of the economic track. The position will support the PSF interventions in this area by identifying new opportunities of collaboration and ensure their implementation.

UNDP adopts a portfolio approach to accommodate changing business needs and leverage linkages across interventions to achieve its strategic goals. This is a recognition of interconnected nature of development risks & crises that the world is facing and that call for assembling of multidisciplinary teams for an integrated & systemic response. Therefore, UNDP personnel are expected to work across issues, units, functions, teams and projects in multidisciplinary teams in order to enhance and enable horizontal collaboration.

The incumbent will be expected to undertake extensive travel, including to Yemen and the region.

IV. Key Duties and Accountabilities

1) Advise and Support on Policy Formulation

- Advise and support the establishment of a comprehensive and effective political strategy to address Yemen's economic challenges, focusing on issues that can support progress in the political process.
- Identify areas of economic policy and key research questions for the UN PSF to research further.
- Actively support the drafting of policy notes on the economy in Yemen and regional economic issues related to resolving the conflict Yemen.
- Advise OSESGY on the formulation of economic policy to support the political process in Yemen in cooperation with international financial institutions, member states, and the UN Country Team.
- Support the coordination of OSESGY's political outreach strategy on the economic track with the UN Country Team, Member States, international financial institutions, and other members of the international community.
- Participate in the development and implementation of an economic and political-economy strategy for OSESGY.

2) Advice on Economic and Political Dynamics and Representation of UNDP Yemen	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide advice to UNDP senior management and the Senior Economic Advisor on political dynamics of economic issues pertaining to the conflict. • Advise and support engagement in and support of political negotiations with Yemeni and international economic institutions, including at senior levels, to support economic development in Yemen and the UN-led political process. • Advise and support the development and maintenance of relations with senior government officials and advise them on economic issues, in line with the work of OSESGY and UNDP Yemen. • Advise the Technical Committee and the Senior Tripartite of the UN PSF on new areas of intervention.
3.) Research and Analysis on Economic Issues Relevant for the Peace Negotiations.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft research on core economic dimensions of political negotiations and conflict-resolution. • Pro-actively identify and conduct policy-relevant research on key economic issues in Yemen, as they pertain to the conflict and OSESGY's overall strategic work. • On behalf of OSESGY, provide economic analysis and substantive inputs to UN policy and programming instruments, including UN strategic planning documents and other strategic documents. • Provide quality assurance for the un PSF on research drafted by third-party consultants.
4.) Build strategic partnerships and feed into programme design..	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop partnerships between OSESGY, Resident Coordinator's Office, and UNDP Yemen on economic issues related to the peace negotiations. • Research and analyze information on donors and prepare substantive briefs on possible areas of cooperation. • Produce periodic updates and briefs on country development situation to be used by stakeholders, UNDP Yemen, and OSESGY. •
5) Ensure facilitation of knowledge building and management.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify policy-driven issues; and identify and synthesize best practices and lessons learned directly linked to programme country policy goals. • Establish/strengthen national and international advocacy networks. Implement relevant, high -impact advocacy with key partners. • Coordinate and ensure integrated support in development of policies and institutions to address country problems and needs in collaboration with the Government and other strategic partners. • Support policy advisory services that contribute to inclusive societal digital transformation and take digital technology risks and opportunities or futures signals into account
The incumbent performs other duties within their functional profile as deemed necessary for the efficient functioning of the Office and the Organisation.	
Supervisory/Managerial Responsibilities: None	

V. Requirements:

Education

- Advanced university degree (Master's degree or equivalent) in Economics is required, or
- A first-level university degree (Bachelor's degree) in combination with an additional two years of qualifying experience will be given due consideration in lieu of the advanced university degree
- A PHD in Economics or track record of applied economic policy studies is desirable..

Experience, Knowledge, and Skills

- Minimum of 7 years (with master's degree) or 9 years (with bachelor's Degree) of relevant experience at the national or international level that includes extensive experience in economic research and analysis, policy formulation, and/or application of economic principles in peacebuilding and development programmes is required.
- Experience in collaboration and designing interventions with UN Member States, International Financial Institutions or UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes is desired
- At least four years of international work experience in complex contexts is desired
- At least two years of mediation experience, directly advising on economic issues during political negotiations in complex contexts, is desired.
- Having worked, or having extensive knowledge of dynamics, in Yemen or similar environment, is desirable.
- Fluency in English is required.
- Working knowledge of Arabic is an asset.

Expected Demonstration of Competencies

Achieve Results:	LEVEL 3: Set and align challenging, achievable objectives for multiple projects, have lasting impact
Think Innovatively:	LEVEL 3: Proactively mitigate potential risks, develop new ideas to solve complex problems
Learn Continuously	LEVEL 3: Create and act on opportunities to expand horizons, diversify experiences
Adapt with Agility	LEVEL 3: Proactively initiate and champion change, manage multiple competing demands
Act with Determination	LEVEL 3: Think beyond immediate task/barriers and take action to achieve greater results
Engage and Partner	LEVEL 3: Political savvy, navigate complex landscape, champion inter-agency collaboration
Enable Diversity and Inclusion	LEVEL 3: Appreciate benefits of diverse workforce and champion inclusivity

Cross-Functional & Technical competencies (insert up to 7 competencies)

Thematic Area	Name	Definition
Partnership management	Strategic engagement	Ability to capture and sustain attention, interest and agreement of high-level, influential policy and decision makers and secure their buy-in of high-level vision and objectives.
Business Direction & Strategy	System Thinking	Ability to use objective problem analysis and judgement to understand how interrelated elements coexist within an overall process or system, and to consider how altering one element can impact on other parts of the system.
Business Management	Portfolio Management	Ability to select, prioritize and control the organization's programmes and projects, in line with its strategic objectives and capacity; ability to balance the implementation of change initiatives and the maintenance of business-as-usual, while optimizing return on investment
2030 Agenda - Partnerships	SDG integration	Economic Forecasting
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2030 Agenda - Peace	<i>Governance</i>	Economic Governance
2030 Agenda - People	Gender	Inclusive economies and the economic empowerment of women

VI. Keywords

Economic analytical;
Sustainable Development Goals
Economic policy analysis
Inclusive economic development growth
Strategic partnerships
Resource mobilization