



# PEACE SUPPORT FACILITY FOR YEMEN



## A WORD OF WELCOME

One year has passed since the Peace Support Facility was established. A year where, unfortunately, the conflict has continued. In late March 2020, the Secretary General issued a global call-to-action for warring factions to lay down their weapons to collectively focus upon the severity of issues at hand. In Yemen, however, the fighting continues, the death toll rises, the suffering of the Yemeni population increases, and the damage to key services and infrastructure endures.

With COVID-19, Yemen faces a new, merciless enemy that will be unbeatable if the armed conflict continues. Yemen faces a crisis on top of existing crises that threaten the fragile gains made, making the world's worst humanitarian and development crises even more dire. Ending the fighting now and allowing for a UN-led mediated process to end the conflict is imperative.

As the UN Special Envoy perseveres with his effort toward a political dialogue, humanitarian interventions and development action must be equally prioritized to save lives.

Our work on the ground shows that by addressing development needs now, we can help Yemenis preserve their dignity and escape dependence on humanitarian aid.

It strengthens the resilience of communities and institutions and ultimately enables a faster recovery. I am proud to see that – despite the difficult operationalization in Yemen – our work continues in areas like the ports of Hodeidah, Salif and Ras Issa to enable this progress to happen.

Now more than ever, bold action, solidarity and cooperation are needed to see the crises through. We must ensure we are working together to help the Yemeni people get what they deserve – a life without fear of conflict and diseases, and a life with dignity and hope for a better future.



Auke Lootsma

UNDP Yemen Resident Representative

### Editorial team

UNDP Yemen is committed to keeping our partners and the Yemeni people informed about our PSF work. This newsletter – an opportunity to reflect upon our collective efforts to bring peace to Yemen – will be published Quarterly. It will be shared via email and posted to our [website](#).

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## Overview

In January 2019, building upon the momentum generated by the Stockholm Agreement, the PSF was conceptualized during the Berlin High-Level Strategic Dialogue for Yemen. Under the guidance and leadership of the UN Special Envoy for Yemen and the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, our aim is to support Yemen's peace process.

Despite challenges and these unprecedented times, the PSF has been moving forward with our mandate by addressing the immediate priority of supporting the Hodeidah Agreement implementation. Specifically, to help ensure unhindered passage of humanitarian assistance to millions of Yemenis, we support the Agreement's objective to strengthen the UN's presence in Hodeidah city and the ports of Hodeidah, Salif and Ras Issa.

In July 2019, a damage assessment of the three ports was undertaken, where a series of rehabilitation interventions were identified. As part of this, the Port of Hodeidah Training Center was recently fully renovated and other actions are currently being prioritized.



*PSF Steering Committee  
Berlin, September 2019*

*Credit: German Federal Foreign Office*

The PSF is also progressing on the activation of our second window to build peace from the 'ground up'. Initiatives will stem from Track II dialogues and – with 80% of our staff on board – PSF is prepared to implement fully and quickly.

## UNDP COVID-19 RESPONSE

Working at the heart of the United Nations family, UNDP has been designated to play the technical lead role in developing the Socio-Economic Response complementing the Humanitarian Response and the Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan. Following the Secretary-General's report on the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis, the framework will provide the strategy and blueprint for the urgent socio-economic response. The focus is on the here and now at the country level.

UNDP Yemen is prepared to work closely with our implementing partners to roll out:

- (1) Rapid adjustments to existing programming: Support ongoing health responses through activities that strengthen the first line of defense and flatten the curve; and,
- (2) A standalone response: Focus upon mitigation of COVID's socio-economic impact by concentrating on scaling-up

*"We are already hard at work, together with our UN family and other partners, on three immediate priorities: supporting the health response including the procurement and supply of essential health products, under WHO's leadership, strengthening crisis management and response, and addressing critical social and economic impacts."*

Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator

social protection and safeguarding the economy.

The UNDP Country Office has implemented its business continuity plan, relocating most of the international staff outside Yemen while national staff work from home. Only essential staff remain in the Aden, Mukalla and Sana'a offices.

The PSF has not been significantly impacted by the situation. To date, only two activities have been postponed: the damage assessment mission of the container cranes and the in-country steering committee meeting for the interventions in the ports of Hodeidah.



## ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### Deploying a damage assessment mission

In June 2019, two Port of Rotterdam experts undertook a damage assessment mission of the ports of Hodeidah, Salif and Ras Issa. The [assessment report](#) noted the precarious conditions of the infrastructure and equipment of the three ports requiring urgent rehabilitation to avoid a complete shutdown of port operations.

The assessment recommended a series of interventions classified based upon their priority level: 1) Projects to maintain the current level of port operations and to avoid a complete shutdown; 2) Projects to re-establish containerized cargo handling at Hodeidah Port; 3) Projects to restore or improve safety and sustainability of the port's operations and assets. Given their most immediate urgency, the PSF Steering Committee agreed to allocate USD 7 million for the implementation of the priority level one interventions. These include:

Spare parts for tugboats and rolling equipment



Rehabilitation of maintenance workshop



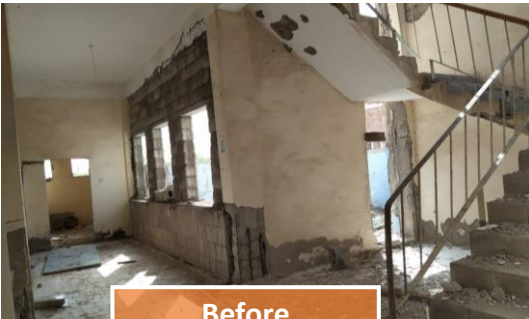
Repair of berths



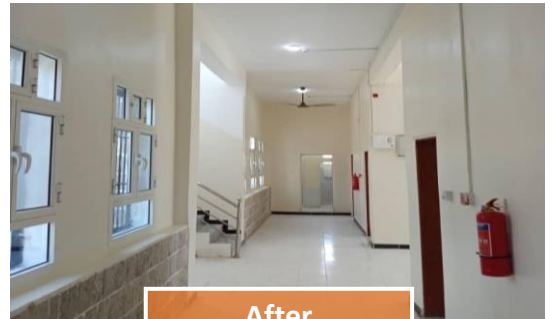
Damage assessment of gantry cranes

### Rehabilitation of the training centre

The rehabilitation of Port of Hodeidah training centre has been completed and the hand over to the Yemen Red Sea Port Corporation took place on Monday 27 April 2020.



Before



After



# ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

## Assistance to ceasefire initiative

Following a request by the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary General for Yemen (OSESgy), the PSF contracted Hala System, a company specializing in provision of services to strengthen observation of ceasefire and de-escalation activities. Reducing the level of violence may allow parties to concentrate on possible compromises and advance consultations.

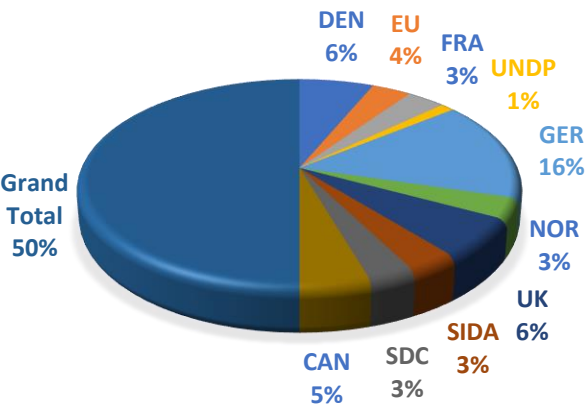
Building upon a Canadian-funded pilot project, the company enhanced data tracking and reporting, further developed mobile-application technology, and started planning for assessment operations and training of observers.

With bridge funding provided by the PSF, the monitoring activity was able to go uninterrupted and will be expanded into a full-fledged programme funded by Germany and other donors.



## PSF IN NUMBERS

### CONTRIBUTIONS



83% of first phase budget mobilized

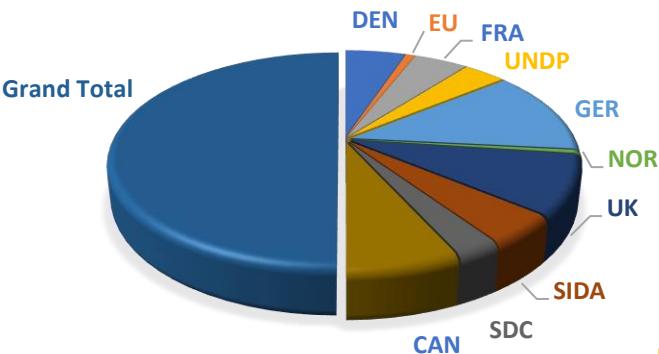
33% of resources committed

37% cost estimate of ongoing procurement processes

13% cost estimate of upcoming procurement

81% of PSF core staff recruited

### TOTAL EXPENDITURE



## WHAT'S NEW? LAUNCHING PSF WINDOW 2

Mindful of the volatile and challenging political circumstances, the PSF Steering Committee agreed in September 2019 to expand scope of the PSF to reflect the current realities in Yemen and to further incentivize community-led reconciliation. The window 2 of the PSF has the objective to deliver discreet activities emerging out of existing Track II initiatives with the goal of catalyzing the political process. As such, it offers an opportunity to meaningfully turn recommendations and ideas stemming from dialogues into concrete projects.

As part of the Track II coordination meetings, co-hosted by OSESGY and the EU, a dedicated session was held on 27 April 2019 to introduce the PSF window 2 to Track II partners and solicit possible initiatives to be submitted to PSF. Project ideas, that are expected to be implemented within six to 12 months, will undergo risk and feasibility assessment to ensure that associated risks do not outweigh potential benefits, and to avoid overlapping with similar initiatives within geographic proximity.

During the discussion, some ideas were brought up by Track II partners such as one that seeks a temporary ceasefires in the city of Taiz to enable garbage collection across the frontline. A second one, proposed by OSESGY, aims at implementing initiatives to help communities engage with security forces and armed groups to reduce the impact of the war on civilians. The latter is currently under review by the PSF Coordination Group, composed of UNDP, OSESGY and RCO.

## COMING UP



A series of procurement processes valuing an average 7 million USD are currently underway for the rehabilitation of Port Hodeidah. These include the repair of two berths, the provision of buoys and the procurement of spare parts for tugboats and rolling equipment.



Preparations are ongoing to deploy the mission for the technical assessment of the Liebherr cranes in the coming weeks. Following its postponement due to COVID-19 restrictions earlier in the year, the mission will consist of a team of experts from the Netherlands Enterprise Agency.



*View of Hodeidah Port | Photo  
Credit: UNDP Yemen*



We look forward to receiving ideas from Track II partners to be implemented under its window 2. The PSF will also expand its outreach efforts to local organizations to solicit more ideas from the ground.

Follow us on our [PSF webpage](#)

