



PEACE SUPPORT FACILITY FOR YEMEN



A SNAPSHOT OF THE SECOND PSF STEERING COMMITTEE

On 29 September, the Steering Committee of the Peace Support Facility (PSF) met virtually to review the progress made during the last 12 months and to chart the way forward.

Briefing participants on the latest political developments, the UN Special Envoy for Yemen emphasized the recent positive breakthrough on the prisoner exchange – demonstrating that agreements between the parties can be reached. Griffiths also underscored PSF's importance in implementing initiatives that may result from the Joint Declaration currently being negotiated with the parties.

Highlights presented to partners included the rehabilitation of the Training Center and the assessment of the Liebherr cranes in the Port of Hodeidah. Additionally, it was noted that USD 6 million in procurement processes are underway to help further the emergency port rehabilitation, and the first initiatives under Window 2 will start in October 2020.

Under the leadership of the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, in 2021, the PSF aims to support additional interventions estimated to cost an extra USD 10 million. These include assessment operations to determine the condition of the Safer tanker; relevant economic and humanitarian actions stemming from the Joint Declaration; and support to safety and security reforms.

Considering these important developments, the PSF has been extended through the end of 2022. To help inform PSF's work, and to help ensure it becomes an even more flexible instrument for the peace process, an evaluation will be conducted of its work to date.



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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](#).

IN FOCUS: COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVES

By A Heather Coyne, Senior Security Sector Reform Officer, OSESGY

A Yemeni proverb says “don’t tie your donkey to the donkey of the man with all the bad luck.” In many respects, the Security Sector is the bad luck donkey of peacebuilding in Yemen because the sensitivity of security issues and the risks of working on them discourages the involvement of many partners. No one wants to tie their donkeys to initiatives in the security field.

However, a small number of organizations have made significant progress in creating channels to armed groups and security forces to improve their awareness of, and respect for, civilian protection. These topics emerged from several Track II dialogues, with calls to involving communities to make security actors more accountable and willing to prioritise local community needs; and to create durable formats for communication between communities and security actors.

The organizations working on such activities formed a network (nicknamed The Bad Luck Donkeys) to share information and ideas. They recognized the need to expand these initiatives and link them to the peace process where they can shape transitional security arrangements to be more inclusive and responsive to local needs. This also contributes to women’s participation, since reframing the issues around community concerns enables women activists to access and influence the security debate.

Chaired by the OSESGY Security Sector Reform team, the network developed a package of initiatives which will now be implemented under PSF’s newly opened Window 2. They include safety



awareness campaigns and consultations between communities and security actors to address the impact of local security activities on the civilian population. The implementing organizations – groups with long experience on the ground and extensive partnerships with Yemeni Civil Society Organizations – will begin work in October, with oversight by OSESGY and UNDP. While the main value of these initiatives is to reduce the burden of the conflict on the civilian population, providing them some “breathing space,” the projects also enable communities and civil society to inject locally-designed options for security and safety arrangements into OSESGY’s Track I process.

In the PSF Steering Committee meeting, the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Lise Grande, stated that the PSF would place emphasis on community safety and security reform, an encouraging sign that the work of the *Bad Luck Donkeys* could become a “good luck charm” for the peace process.



Community policing training | Photo Credit: UNDP Yemen

ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Assessment of the Liebherr cranes

In August 2015 in the Port of Hodeidah, Liebherr cranes were hit by an airstrike, causing severe damage and significantly affecting port operations. Based upon a 2019 assessment by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) experts, it was determined that two of the five Liebherr cranes – Liebherr LR1800 and Liebherr LR1801 – could potentially be salvaged.

Despite the travel restrictions and volatility caused by COVID-19, an RVO technical assessment of the damaged cranes occurred from 28 July – 4 August 2020. Extensive assessments of the cranes were conducted by the expert who was supported by UNDP and engineers of the Port of Hodeidah Yemen Red Sea Ports Corporation (YRSPC).

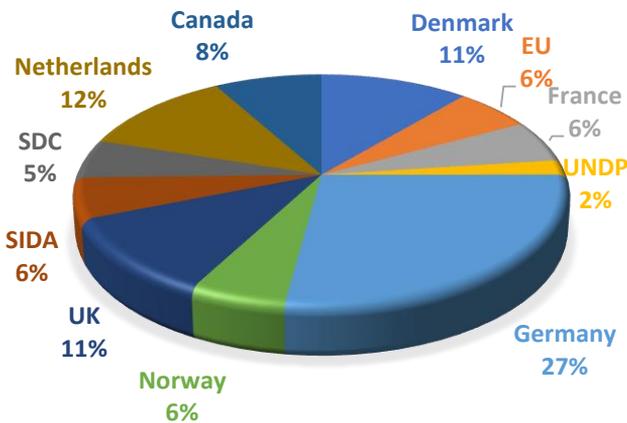
The assessment – based upon Liebherr technical inspection protocols – was a result of collaboration between UNDP, the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO), and Liebherr Ireland.

The damage assessment reports were submitted to Liebherr in September. UNDP is waiting for the final assessments on the viability of repair and the associated costs.

PSF IN NUMBERS

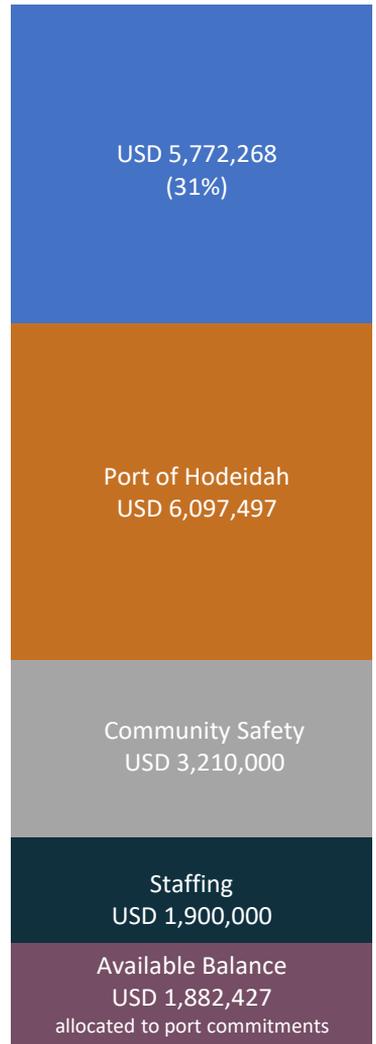
The PSF has received USD 18,862,193 from 11 donors and recently signed an additional contribution from Italy. Approximately 31% of the contributions have been spent and the remaining balance is committed for upcoming activities with the port rehabilitation and Window 2.

CONTRIBUTIONS (USD 18,862,193)



Expenditures to date

Commitments



COMING UP



As part of Window 2, which implements initiatives stemming from Track 2 dialogues, the PSF has been in discussions with Berghof Foundation and Deeproot Consulting about two interventions in Dhamar and Taiz, respectively. Both emerging from local stakeholder consultations, the interventions will contribute to ‘building peace from the ground up’ and – given the advanced status of preparations – may soon be implemented.

The proposed Dhamar interventions focus upon the resolution of water management-related conflicts: one will provide safe drinking water to citizens in Al-Jadid and Ruma neighborhoods and another will rehabilitate the Dhoba pumping station to provide water to the Maghreb Ans district. Discussions will be mediated by Berghof Foundation and the Political Development Forum.

In Taiz, there is a proposal to conduct a clean-up campaign to remove mounds of garbage from neighborhoods near both sides of the city’s frontlines. It entails negotiating a limited ceasefire to allow workers to clear the rubbish and move between the two areas of control. In addition to addressing a major public health concern, the aim is to build trust between the parties (relevant to Track I and II efforts) to open the humanitarian corridor and reduce hostilities.



Yemenis during a local dialogue | Photo Credit: Berghof Foundation

The UN and the international community have been strongly advocating with the parties for an assessment and possible repairs of the SAFER tanker. Since 2019, the 1970’s era floating oil storage and offloading vessel has been moored in the Red Sea, north of Hodeidah, and has been severely under-maintained. Further damage could result in an explosion or spill of disastrous environmental consequences and huge humanitarian implications.



During the PSF Steering Committee – given the confidence-building nature of the activity – it was agreed that PSF is well positioned to serve as a risk- and burden-sharing instrument for the international community to support the assessment and repairs of the tanker.



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