

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## *Military redeployment from the ports of Hodeidah*



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.

On 11 May 2019, Ansar Allah military and security forces began a unilateral redeployment from the three ports of Hodeidah, Salif and Ras Issa – critical lifelines for humanitarian aid for Yemen. Once complete, the redeployment will allow the United Nations (UN) – including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) – to assist in improving port efficiency and capacity.

### Why is the unilateral redeployment considered a critical step?

This unilateral redeployment from the ports of Hodeida, Salif and Ras Issa serves as a first step toward the implementation of the Stockholm Agreement signed on 13 December 2018. The arrangement by the Yemeni parties involved an immediate cease-fire in the governorate of Hodeidah including the city of Hodeidah, as well as the ports of Hodeidah, Salif and Ras Issa.

The Agreement calls for the UN to play a leading role in supporting the Yemen Red Sea Ports Corporation in the management of – and inspections at – the ports and strengthening the UN's presence in the city of Hodeidah and the ports.

In direct response to the enhanced access resulting from the redeployment, UNDP and the international community are poised to support the ports.

### Why are the three ports important?

Seventy per cent of Yemen's imports and 80 per cent of humanitarian assistance passes through the ports of Hodeidah, Salif and Ras Issa which are critical to commercial and humanitarian activities in Yemen. The west coast ports recently accounted for 85 per cent of wheat grain, 42 per cent of rice imports and nearly half of the wheat flour that entered Yemen.

However, the essential lifelines have been affected by ongoing conflict – resulting in the inaccessibility of key humanitarian infrastructure such as milling capacity and warehousing.

The opening of the ports will facilitate access of urgent humanitarian supplies to the Yemenis in most need. There are currently an estimated 80 per cent of the population, 24 million people, that require some form of humanitarian or protection assistance, including 14.3 million who are in acute need.

More than 20 million Yemenis are food insecure, including 10 million who are one step away from famine, and 230 of the 333 districts face pre-famine conditions. Over 238,000 people in 45 districts are in catastrophic conditions and more will fall into this category unless the access is expanded.

### The Stockholm Agreement

**13 December 2018**  
Agreement signed

**S/RES/2045**  
UN Security Council  
[Resolution](#) establishing the  
UN Mission to Support the  
Hodeida Agreement  
(UNMAH)

**11 – 14 May 2019**  
Unilateral redeployment by  
Ansar Allah (Houthis) from  
the ports of Hodeida, Salif  
and Ras Issa

### Importance of the Hodeidah ports

**70%**  
Yemen imports pass through  
the ports

**80%**  
Humanitarian assistance is  
disseminated through the  
ports

## What is UNDP's role in the ports?

The demilitarization of the ports allows UNDP the necessary access to support the restoration and enhancement of their operational capacity to facilitate the entry of vital humanitarian aid through the ports.

UNDP's initial support aims to upgrade port facilities including the replacement of navigational aids at the main port, refurbishing the control tower, replacing the berth guards and enhancing the perimeter lighting, among other priorities.

This initial support is part of a potentially larger support package for the three ports of Hodeidah, Salif and Ras Issa. In June 2019, a Dutch expert mission is scheduled to identify additional needs for critical port operational capacity to help facilitate the passage of humanitarian aid and commercial shipments.

## How is UNDP supporting the implementation of the Stockholm Agreement?

In January 2019, UNDP established an office in Hodeidah city to ensure a stable presence on the ground. This is key to supporting the Agreement with agility and speed through fast, tangible and high-impact interventions. Supporting the upgrade of the ports is the preliminary step in additional technical assistance that could be provided should the Stockholm Agreement be fully implemented.

Additionally, the soon-to-be established [Peace Support Facility](#) (PSF) will work to build public support for the peace process by achieving tangible, rapid improvement in the daily lives of people in priority areas. Established under the guidance of the Special Envoy to the Secretary-General for Yemen and the UN Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator, the PSF will demonstrate concrete alternatives to conflict, create local demand for peace and encourage parties to deepen their engagement in the peace process. Establishing the PSF would better enable meeting other technical and/or operational needs of the ports should the political negotiations around the Stockholm Agreement allow.

## How is UNDP responding to Yemen conflict?

Remaining committed to a vision of eventual peace and long-term development – and building upon our 53-year history in Yemen – UNDP has scaled-up its assistance to respond to immediate needs caused by conflict. Since the conflict began in 2015, UNDP has delivered US\$517.5 million in development assistance to Yemen, achieving important results such as:

**Cash-for-work schemes:** Across the country, Yemenis have participated in rebuilding schools, health facilities, water delivery and sanitation systems, as well as other critical infrastructure. Because they are remunerated for their work, they can provide their families with food, clean water, vaccines and health care.

**Restoring essential power:** Solar power systems have brought light back to schools, made it possible to keep cold storage vaccines and operate medical equipment, and enabled stores and other businesses to stay open after dark.

**Demining:** Approximately 1000 demining personnel are now trained and active across the country, resulting in the clearance of over 6.6 million square meters of land – including over 125,000 explosive remnants of war.

**Cholera prevention:** Educators have been trained to work in schools and health facilities or to deliver information about cholera prevention and nutrition to their communities.

**Small-businesses support:** Community members have been trained in business and equipped to start their own businesses, receiving grants and coaching throughout the process.

**Community level peace-building:** As the result of training in conflict resolution, project planning and resource mobilization, communities are resolving their own disputes and forming committees to organize and implement their own infrastructure development projects. They are building back their own lives.

### Yemen's key humanitarian needs

**80%**

Yemenis requiring humanitarian assistance

**14.3 million**

In acute need

**20 million**

Food insecure

**230 of 333**

Districts in pre-famine conditions