

يَمَنِيَّات YEMENIATE

UNDP YEMEN QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



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A Word by UNDP Resident Representative Ms. Pratibha Mehta

Welcome to the first issue of UNDP newsletter Yemeniate. Yemeniate means Yemenizing our works and programmes for the benefit of the Yemeni people. In this first issue, you will read about some of our activities and programmes we launched recently to promote human development in Yemen.

Through this newsletter, we hope to communicate with you on development issues and UNDP assistance, and hear about your expectations and concerns.



A Word by UNDP Country Director Mr. Selva Ramachandran

Dear readers,




I'm pleased to present to you this first issue of UNDP Yemen newsletter Yemeniate.

In this issue, we highlight our development work in several areas such as economic diversification, early recovery, biodiversity conservation, and others.

Please feel free to share with us your feedbacks on our newsletter.



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**US\$ 6 MILLION PROJECT TO ASSIST
FLOODS AFFECTED AREAS IN
HADRAMOUT AND AL-MAHARA
SIGNED**



The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government of Yemen (GoY) signed on 9th of September 2009 a US\$ 6 million project

document titled “Early Recovery for the Livelihoods Sector of the Flood Affected Areas, in Hadhramout and Al-Mahara Governorates”, in the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation.

The initial focus of this project will be on rapid delivery of assistance to meet immediate and transitional recovery



needs of the affected communities. Moreover, and from the outset, it will promote approaches and activities that go beyond initial recovery towards more sustained social and economic recovery.

In the long run, the project aims to lay the foundation for a long-term development of the floods affected areas, in Hadhramout and Al-Mahra Governorates. It will support GoY in enhancing its coordination capacity for the recovery of the local economic and social structures.

Taking into consideration that 75% of the affected population by the floods is comprised of farmers, rehabilitation of livelihood at community level will be a key component of this project. In addition, it will give a particular focus on vulnerable groups such as women.

The local authorities will play a key role in the recovery activities outlined in this project.

The Project Document was signed by H.E. Hisham Sharaf Abdullah, Vice Minister of Planning and International Cooperation and Ms.

Pratibha Mehta, UNDP Resident Representative. It was attended by: Mr. Selva Ramachandran, UNDP Country Director, Mr. Mohammad Naciri, UNDP Deputy Country Director, officials from the Yemeni Government, UNDP, and other stakeholders.



US\$ 13 MILLION FOR THE ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION SUPPORT PROGRAMME, AND US\$ 1,4 MILLION FOR THE SUPPORT IN LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION & EMPLOYMENT POLICY PROGRAMME



The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government of Yemen (GoY) signed two project documents on 19th of August 2009, at the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC).

The first project document is a US\$ 13 million Economic Diversification Support Programme (EDSP). The Government of Yemen, through its various ministries, will contribute US\$ 2.4 million, UNDP will contribute US\$ 8 million from its regular sources, and will help mobilize an additional US\$ 2.5 million.

The newly launched programme will address one of the most crucial concerns of Yemen's Strategic Vision 2025, as well as the Third Five-Year Socio-Economic Development Plan for Poverty Reduction (2006-2010), which is the call for economic diversification by promoting equitable job-creating growth in four promising sectors: agriculture, fisheries, industry & trade, and tourism. The programme is expected to

lay the foundation for an increase in employment opportunities by supporting public and private investments in these four sectors.

The EDSP is aligned with the national priorities, as reflected in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and UNDP County Programme Action Plan (2007-2011), which focus on diversifying the economy in the country. It will support the Government's efforts to create an enabling business environment that will strengthen the private sector and result in expanded income earning opportunities for the population at large, with a particular focus on women and youth. The programme will facilitate the formulation and implementation of relevant policies and strategies in each of the four sectors (trade and industry, fisheries, agriculture and tourism), with the aim of increasing job opportunities in a sustainable manner. Moreover, inter-sectoral linkages will be promoted through the formulation of a Non-Oil Based Development Strategy and the facilitation of policy dialogue on multi-sectoral issues between relevant line ministries and the Ministries of Finance and Planning.

The second one is a US\$ 1.4 million Joint Programme, between UNDP and ILO, to provide Support to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour (MoSAL) in labour market information and employment policy. The programme aims at strengthening the capacity of the Labour Market Information Analysis Unit within MoSAL. UNDP will contribute half a million dollars, the Government of Yemen will contribute more than US\$ 307,000, the International Labour Organization (ILO) will contribute close to US\$ 300,000, and Silatech will contribute US\$ 300,000.

Through this Joint Programme, UNDP and ILO express their bilateral commitments to provide technical assistance to the MoSAL/ Labour Market Information and Analysis Unit.



The programme will support the unit's objectives in the promotion, implementation and monitoring of the National Employment Strategy.

By strengthening MoSAL's capacity to collect, process, analyze and disseminate updated quality labour market data, this Joint Programme will enable GoY, at the central and decentralized levels, to better allocate scarce resources for diversification and revitalization of the local economy.

In addition, the programme will contribute to: maintain, promote and monitor of the implementation of the National Employment Strategy Action Plan, conduct policy-oriented studies on the economic developments impact on employment, analyse and publish the results of surveys and studies, and, last but not least, establish a functioning coordination mechanism between major stakeholders.

In view of their crucial statistical and national planning functions, the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation and Central Statistical Organisation are key implementation partners of this Joint Programme.

The Ministries of Technical Education and Vocational Training, Higher Education and Scientific Research, and Industry and Trade are also major Labour Market Information and Analysis Unit stakeholders.

The signing ceremony was attended by: *H.E. Dr. Mansour Al-Hawshabi - Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, H.E. Mohmmad Shamlan - Minister of Fish Wealth, H.E. Mr. Nabil Al-Faqih - Minister of Tourism, H.E. Eng. Hisham Sharaf Abdullah - Vice Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, H.E. Mr. Abdullah Al-Shater - Deputy Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, Ms. Pratibha Mehta - UNDP Resident Representative, Mr. Selva Ramachandran - UNDP Country Director, Mr. Mohammad Naciri - UNDP Deputy Country Director, officials from Government, UNDP, and others.*



NO HOME FOR THE HOUSE CROW ON SOCOTRA



By: Bohdana Rambouskova
SGBP Communication
Officer

The biodiversity of Socotra is so unique and fragile that a total ban on exporting and importing any biological material has been issued for the Archipelago. Therefore biologists were concerned when two couples of alien specie of the House Crow *Corvus splendens* arrived at the island in 1993. The newcomers, nesting by the old Hadibu jetty, gradually managed to build up a significant population spreading to another two wadis of Hadibu and Sirhen.

With 30 House Crows living on the island in the year 2000, a team of bird experts, led by Richard Porter and Omar Al-Saghir from the Birdlife International, began negotiations with the Socotra branch of the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and the ongoing GEF Socotra Biodiversity Project about necessary actions that needed to be taken.

The House Crow was highly threatening both to the unique biodiversity of the Socotra Archipelago and to local people's crop and livestock sustainability. Original Socotri reptiles and birds were particularly endangered. By capturing eggs of grey shrieks and palm trees pigeons and by assaulting birds of all sizes up to the Egyptian vultures, the crow population managed to chase migratory species from their natural habitats in several wadis. Local people were exposed to frequent attacks of crows on juvenile household chickens and sheep. Several cases of the crow entering inside a house were reported.

The House Crow eradication campaign that started in 2000 needed a creative approach. Experts faced several failures before finding the terminal solution. The GEF Socotra Biodiversity Project, followed later by the GEF-UNDP Socotra Conservation and Development Programme (SCDP) in cooperation with the EPA, was constantly working on a scheme of preventive measures to keep the rising population of the House Crow under control and, subsequently, remove it from the island.

In the first phase of the House Crow eradication, small traps were brought from the United Kingdom. However, they proved to be too small and the crows were smart enough to find their food on the coast and at garbage sites. A year later, a special trap was constructed with the assistance of Richard Porter and Omar Al-Saghir. Still, the method proved not reliable and the crow population was still rising in numbers!



Another approach was tested at the end of 2001 when professional army shooters were brought to the Hadibu Wadi. However, not a single crow was hit in the four days of the shooting campaign.

The third phase of the House Crow eradication started in 2002. The Socotra Biodiversity Project launched an awareness campaign explaining the tremendous impact of the alien bird on livestock to the local inhabitants.

Interviews with people living close to the areas of the House Crow appearance were conducted and information on their nesting and diet were

collected with an inventory list of the alien birds as the output. The Socotris were encouraged to monitor the crow population and to report any increase in numbers or changes in behavior.

The most devoted observers happened to be the school children. They got the most precise information about crow nest locations and numbers of eggs. They brought 61 eggs to the EPA office but they were soon asked by experts not to do so because losing their eggs made the female crows to lay even more of them. Instead, it was decided to let the eggs hatch and collect the young ones. Socotri children handed in 177 young House Crows for the reward of 1000 – 1500 Yemeni Rials for each bird, depending on its age. That helped to get the House Crow population under control and to restrict its distribution to Hadibu area only.

Last phase of the project was conducted by the SCDP cooperating with the GEF-Small Grant Programme. In 2009, a couple of professional shooters, equipped with special guns, were brought from Germany and Great Britain. During their trip to Socotra, last April, they killed the last 13 crows, leaving the island completely clean from the alien specie. The SCDP project had been officially closed just few weeks before this long expected moment to be followed by a new project aimed on Strengthening Socotra's Policy and Regulatory Framework for Mainstreaming Biodiversity (SGBP).

The SGBP, together with the Invasive Species Control Group funded by the GEF- Small Grant Programme, will continue in monitoring the island in the future.

The House Crow eradication campaign was a great example of cooperation between the local people and the experts. "Only with their mutual support could we reach the difficult goal," said Dr. Nadim Taleb, the SGBP National Project Coordinator who was with the team through all years of the eradication attempts.

The nine year long campaign against the House Crow on Socotra was funded by the GEF Project, the UNDP-GEF Projects and the GEF-Small Grant Programme. The EPA facilitated all

eradication activities on the island. The total cost of all actions taken reached US\$ 15,000. An additional outcome of the project is the SCDP plan to rearrange the garbage disposal methods in settlements and to design enforcement measures.

"We are happy to share our experience and lessons learned with the readers," said Dr. Taleb. He pointed out that the House Crow needed just a single day to settle on the island but it took the experts a decade to eradicate it. It is important to be noted that, in the Socotra case, the House Crow arrived on cargo ships!



A special trap built with assistance of the Wildlife International experts, situated in a natural setting. Photo taken by Richard Paine



**AN INTERVIEW WITH MR. SELVA
RAMACHANDRAN
UNDP YEMEN COUNTRY DIRECTOR**

*Published by the Industry Magazine
June 2009*

What are the most important activities that UNDP conducts in Yemen?



In the beginning, I would like to thank your magazine for this nice opportunity, and I wish you all the best in your work. To answer your question, our vision is to support Yemen's development priorities and to support Yemen's efforts

to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). For this purpose, we work on two main areas; a) pro-poor economic growth, which includes natural resources management, including environment and disaster management, and b) good governance and gender. In addition, UNDP supports the implementation of the Global Fund grant to Yemen, for HIV/ Aids.

UN has chosen Yemen as a pilot country for MDGs, how do you evaluate the executed steps? Are the foreign aids enough to achieve MDGs?

Yemen was the only Arab country that was selected to participate under the UN Millennium Pilot project in 2005, in which a thoroughly assessment was undertaken to understand the level of investment required to meet the MDGs by 2015. As a result of this assessment, MDGs Need Assessment Report was prepared, which revealed that Yemen would mostly likely achieve universal primary

education and under 5 child mortality goals. The report also suggested additional funding of US\$ 48 billion over the ten years and an annual economic growth of over 7% to be able to achieve all of the MDGs. Based on the recently conducted Mid-Term Review of the 3rd National Development Plan for Poverty Reduction, Yemen was able to record an average economic growth of over 3% during the first three years of the current national plan. Yemen needs to vigorously move ahead with reforms in a number of areas including diversifying the economy, employment creation, and it also needs to give a greater attention to basic social services.

Moreover, it is also extremely important for donors to continue building strong partnership with Yemen and support its socio economic and its reform agenda. Furthermore, for the past 15 years, Yemen has received limited international aid, well below international averages for LDCs. In November 2006, a Donor Consultative Group meeting resulted in \$ 5 billion in pledges (for the period 2007-2010), of which over half came from the countries of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf. These pledges need to be translated into disbursements and concrete activities aligned with the Development Plan for the country to meet the MDGs by 2015.

How do you evaluate your partnership with Yemen?

Over the years, UNDP has developed effective partnerships with all levels of working closely together on national, governorate and district level development issues.

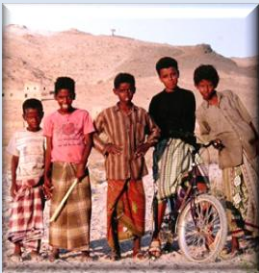
In addition to that, the UNDP Country Office in Yemen has forged close links with non-governments organizations (NGOs), the private sector and both bilateral and multilateral donors. Still, building a stronger foundation for this partnership is needed.

How much/big is your support to Yemen?

In the area of good governance, the main projects focus on the support to the electoral process, decentralization, transparency and accountability, and advisory support to the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation. A new joint UNDP/UNCDF project in the area of local governance is currently under elaboration and will be launched soon.

In the area of Pro-poor growth, the main projects focus on integrated framework of fruits and vegetables, quality control for fisheries export, demining, support to Disaster Preparedness, Management & Recovery, and environmental interventions in the Socotra Archipelago. In addition to that, and in order to support economic diversification and promote equitable job-creating growth, UNDP is launching a major multi-year programme to support economic growth in four promising sectors: agriculture, fisheries, industry and trade, and tourism. Also, an early recovery project in response to flood disaster in Hadramout and Al-Mahara with the focus on sustainable livelihood is under final stages of formulation and will be launched soon.

Last but not least, a joint programme (UNDP/ILO) is also underway to work in the area of Labour Market information systems.



We have one of the best mine action programmes in the region, which shares its experience to help other countries. Also, we have quite a successful programme with the Global Fund to build the Yemen's capacities to fight HIV/AIDS.

Are you satisfied with the achievements?

I'm quite satisfied with the achievements, yes.

We have one of the best mine action programmes in the region, which shares its experience to help other countries in and outside the region. Also, we have quite a successful programme with the Global Fund to build the Yemen's capacities to fight HIV/AIDS.

In addition, last year, Socotra Archipelago was listed on the World Heritage Sites by UNESCO. I can claim part of the credit for our programme, with our partners in Socotra.

The list goes on and on.

I'm quite satisfied with our results, and UNDP is committed to support

Yemen more, all the way long.

How do you see the government capacity in absorbing/ mobilizing aids and loans?

In preparation for the London donor conference, UNDP commissioned a study on Yemen's absorptive capacities for foreign assistance, in which, various options for improving this absorptive capacity were offered for consideration. We know that the GoY is actively working on expanding its capacity, in conjunction with their development partners.

What are your programs that support CSOs? I would like to know more about your support to the private sector in particular?

We work closely with CSOs in several projects. For example, and this will interest you as a journalist, we are working with Yemen Media

Forum, as one of the partners, to build the media capacities in transparency and accountability. Also, some of our projects helped in establishing some CSOs. I can name one project, the Socotra Project, that contributed successfully to the birth and running of the three major associations on the island: Socotra Ecotourism Society (SES), Socotra Women Development Society (SWDS) and Socotra Society for History and Culture Heritage (SSHCH).

We do support the private sector, throughout our different programmes and projects. In one of our project, we had a partnership with Nexen Company, for example. On the other hand, most importantly, we are working on different projects to better enhance the investment environment in Yemen, and this is what private sector want more.

For this purpose, we have a good project with Ministry of Trade to facilitate investment licenses procedures. Also, in the coming days, we are going to sign a project document, with the government, to support promising sectors, namely agriculture, fishery, tourism and trade and industry, and this, in my view, will be of a great support to private sector investments in Yemen.

Are you going to focus more on supporting these organizations?

As part of the process to enhance our support to Yemen, CSOs are definitely involved.

What do you advise the Yemeni Government, with regard to 'managing' the aid and loans?

The Government has already taken several steps to address it, and this is a good start. Our advice is to continue the efforts, improve co-ordination and reduce implementation bottlenecks.

In your future plans, are you going to support Yemen more, and allocate/ advocate more support from the donors?

Our Country Programme Action Plan (2007 – 2011) was fully drawn from the current national development priorities. Furthermore, we are always reviewing our CPAP, on regular basis, to adjust ourselves to the country priorities. In addition to that, we play an active role to for resource mobilization.

Are you expecting any difficulties to get these aids/ donations from the rich countries, in the shadow of the International Financial Crisis?

Giving the competitive increasingly aid environment, we will focus on further improving the quality of our intervention in order to retain donors interventions.



**Human Security in Arab Countries:
Towards a new perspective on
development**

By Amat Al Alim Alsoswa*



The UNDP launched, on 21st July 2009, in Beirut, the fifth volume of the Arab Human Development Report series. Entitled “Challenges to Human Security in the Arab Countries,” the Report employs the wider definition of *human security* - first introduced in the 1994 global Human Development Report - as a magnifying lens to closely examine the condition of human development in the region. In this approach, analyses transcend traditional notions of security primarily focusing on the narrow concept of state security to embrace a much broader people-focused concept of security. The Report claims that ‘state security’ and ‘human security’ are interconnected, mutually-reinforcing goals. Yet it stresses that the prevailing pattern of giving precedence to the former usually prevents the achievement of either goal, while a focus on ensuring human security in its multiple dimensions—a primary responsibility of the state—maximises development opportunities and reinforces the security of the state.

Observations and in-depth analyses in the Report address a multitude of threats facing human security in Arab countries, including the mounting over-exploitation of natural resources (environmental dimension); liabilities related to the role of the state in guaranteeing security (political dimension); disproportionate vulnerability among social groups (personal and community dimensions); economic volatility, poverty and unemployment (economic dimension); lack of access to basic food (food



dimension); inadequacy of and unequal access to health care systems (health dimension); and foreign occupation of Arab territories, which represents the most comprehensive and systematic threat to people’s security.

The human security lens employed by the Report reveals the degree of vulnerability of all Arab countries on all dimensions of human security. Despite great diversity among Arab countries, their citizens share common fundamental threats, which seriously limit their choices and ability to live with dignity and to enjoy basic rights and freedoms.

Human insecurity in Arab countries represents a major impediment to development in the region, especially in the fields of knowledge, freedoms and women’s empowerment, which were identified as priority areas in the first series of Arab Human Development Report.

The Report follows in the footsteps of the first series in that a distinguished group of intellectuals and scholars possessing longstanding experience with complex developmental realities in this region conducted careful and critical analyses to determine the state of development in the region in complete independence - something that UNDP supports and cherishes. The preparation of this report witnessed significant changes such as

expanding women’s representation in its Advisory Board and providing Arab youth with the opportunity to have a voice in the report – made possible through three consultative youth forums.

This year’s launch will take a different form. Instead of a single event marking the end of the production process, it will serve as a platform for public dialogue – encompassing supporters and critics alike—on the report’s approach and conclusions. UNDP will seek to bolster this dialogue and ensure its seriousness, diversity and intellectual pluralism, while expanding its geographic and time scope through adopting a new rolling launch modality which extends over a full year and includes a series of public debates in several Arab cities.

This series of dialogues begins with the “Beirut Dialogue,” immediately following the launch before travelling eastward and westward to Alexandria, Dubai, Rabat, Doha, Tunis and Amman, where decision makers, thought leaders and civil society can scrutinize issues raised and recommendations presented in the Report to address human security in Arab countries. UNDP has entrusted the organization and management of the series of dialogues to the Cairo-based intellectual monthly magazine “Wughat Nazar” to ensure independence of the dialogue. The dialogue will continue through expert round-tables and an interactive website for a wide cyberspace audience, especially the youth who will soon be targeted through a special youth version of the report.

The human security lens employed by the Report reveals the degree of vulnerability of all Arab countries on all dimensions of human security. Despite great diversity among Arab countries, their citizens share common fundamental threats, which seriously limit their choices and ability to live with dignity and to enjoy basic rights and freedoms.

We are hopeful that this integrated strategy will result in inclusive ground-breaking dialogue, inciting decision makers to reorient development policies towards a people-based approach giving priority to people’s security. We must begin by acknowledging that in these challenging times, achieving human security in Arab countries requires urgent attention.

**Ms. Amat Al Alim Alsoswa serves as UN Assistant Secretary-General, Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional*

Bureau for Arab States - United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



WELCOME ON BOARD

New Deputy Country Director joined UNDP Yemen



Mr. Mohammad Naciri, a Moroccan, has joined UNDP Yemen in July as a Deputy Country Director.

Mohammad has served the United Nations and other International Organizations for over 14 years in various positions, most recently as Deputy Resident Representative in Kuwait UNDP office. Prior to this, he was the Chief of Mission for IOM in Kuwait.

Mohammad began his career in development in 1995 with UNICEF in Cairo, following that, he moved between Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) where he was the Environment and Gender Officer to DFID where he served as a Programme Development Officer. He then joined the Centre for Development Services (CDS) and served as Senior Research and Evaluation Officer. Most of his assignments have been mainly in the Middle East Region: Egypt, Iraq, and the Palestinian Territories before he joined IOM in Cambodia as the Programme Officer and Second-in-Charge.

Mohammad holds M.A degree in Social and Cultural Anthropology from Oxford University as well as he has MBA degree from the Arab Academy for Science and Technology.

FLASH NEWS

33 trainees from the Ministry of Local Administration were trained on planning and local budgeting, last July.

A workshop on 'supporting Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)' was conducted in the Supreme National Committee for Anti-Corruption.

The first project board for Yemen Microfinance Network was held, in September.

289 explosive devices were demined, by UNDP Mine Action Project, in the third quarter of 2009.

The global launch of the UNDP 2009 Human Development Report, Overcoming Barriers: Human Mobility and Development, took place in Bangkok on 5 October 2009.

For more news, please visit

www.undp.org.ye

For feedbacks on the newsletter,
please contact:

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About UNDP:

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and our wide range of partners. In 2000, at the Millennium Summit, world leaders pledged to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, including the overarching goal of cutting poverty in half by 2015, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality and empower women, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, ensuring environmental sustainability and developing a global partnership for development. UNDP's network links and coordinates global and national efforts to reach these goals.