

Yemeniate

يَمَنِيَات

UNDP YEMEN QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE#3

APRIL 2010



YEMENIATE MEANS YEMENIZING OUR WORKS AND PROGRAMMES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE YEMENI PEOPLE

Photo Story: World Water Day 2010
Page 3& 4

*Gender and Economic
Empowerment in Hadramout (1/2)*
Page 5&6

*Gold for UNDP SGBP Website in
Yemen Web Awards 2009*
Page 7

*Fighting HIV/AIDS in Yemen: A
Vignette*
Page 8



World Water Day 2010
Page 1& 2

Cover photo by Yazan Al-Saghiry

World Water Day 2010

Taiz, Ibb and Haradh



*By: Yazan Al-Saghiry
Communications Officer
UNDP Yemen*



Top of the world, when we are thirsty

The blessed land “Yemen” is crying for waters, with no tears! With no lakes, streams nor fountains, water in Yemen is either salty from the sea or wasted from the sky.

On the 22nd of March, another World Water Day was celebrated under a very important theme “Clean Water for a Healthy World”. It is always an occasion to remind us all that access to water for life is a basic human need and a fundamental human right.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government of Yemen,

represented by the Ministry of Water and Environment and the National Water Resources Authority (NWRA), are working hand in hand, with other partners, to address this crisis with the utmost care and responsibility. They have always seized such an opportunity, namely the World Water Day, to raise the awareness of Yemenis and to emphasize the importance of the corporate social responsibility towards water scarcity in this country.

The occasion was recognized in Taiz, Ibb and in the Internal Displaced People Camps (Al-Mazrak I& III). A big awareness raising campaign was launched in Taiz and Ibb with the participation of

local communities, religious leaders, academics, women and youth. School Groups were created to raise the students’ awareness of water issues and challenges. Imams in Mosques utilized Friday Prayers to talk about the public common responsibly towards water resources.

In short, all messages in Taiz and Ibb were loud and clear. Yemen is clearly a case where one has to talk about a water crisis without being alarmist. Water supply is naturally constrained by virtue of Yemen’s location in the dry Arabian Peninsula. However, human action has rapidly worsened the problem with the use of subsidized pumps and diesel to run them, with no education on



Water Supply System, which was installed in Al-Mazrak camps I and III, to provide safe drinking water to 45,000 beneficiaries. The system was fully funded by Oxfam GB and UNICEF.

Camps inhabitants were happy with the inauguration and equally happy with the World Water Day! The recognition in Haradh made them feel integrated and that their problems were not forgotten.

In the main ceremony, in AlMazrak III, Ms. Pratibha Mehta, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, talked about the commitment that we all share towards the innocents people that flew from their homes and everyday lives to settle in an open sky safe haven.

She described the project as essential and crucial for the camps and the nearby areas that are inhabited by Internal Displaced People, who could not sign in the camps, for different reasons.

During the ceremony, a member of the community recited a touching poem talking about the situation in the camps, and underlining the important theme of the World Water Day. Government of Yemen, OXFAM, UNICEF and UNHCR showed commitment to the cause and talked about the importance of this day, in that place, and under these circumstances.

Finally, the World Water Day is over, but the water challenge in Yemen remains.

The gentleman, on the right, looked at me and said: Take my photo! All what he wants is to be seen and heard!

appropriate water-conserving techniques. This has eventually led to over-utilization of water from tube wells. What is worse, up to 80 percent of new wells in the Highlands are used for Qat production, which has no nutritional value, thus crowding out food crops, in addition to adversely affecting household welfare due to impact of Qat purchase on household budgets and lowering labour productivity.

In one sentence, water scarcity is the most crucial challenge faced by the country and is likely to remain so unless drastic measures are taken.

The recognition of the World Water Day in Haradh coincided with the inauguration of the Camps



Photo Story 1: World Water Day 2010 in Haradh

Photos taken by: Zahra Sethna, UNICEF Communications Specialist



The main ceremony was attended by UN agencies, Government of Yemen, local council, local community, rural areas water authority, and others.



H.E. Minister Ahmed Al Kohlani, Minister of State, said that the government is prioritizing water issues in its development agenda.



UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator & UNDP Resident Representative Ms. Pratibha Mehta expressed her satisfaction that water will also cover areas nearby camps.



A poem by a camp inhabitant. Its main theme was: "no one can imagine how difficult it is to leave our homes and lives, and live in a camp".

Photo Story 2: World Water Day 2010 in Haradh



UNICEF Deputy Representative, Ms. Anne-Marie Fonseca, said that the water supply network is promising step towards bettering the live conditions in camps.



Local communities were happy with the recognition of the World Water Day 2010, in Haradh.



It is promising to see children's smiles, after all the suffering.



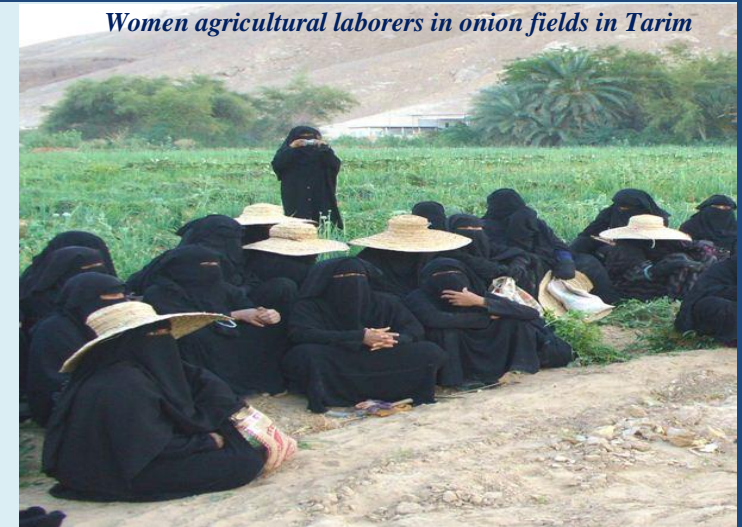
A tap opening to inaugurate the water supply system in AlMazrak I and III, and the nearby areas.

Gender and Economic Empowerment in Hadramout

1/2



By: *Suvira Chaturvedi*
Conflict Prevention Adviser (Gender)
UNDP Yemen



Women agricultural laborers in onion fields in Tarim

They rise at dawn and come by the truckloads, three truckloads to be accurate, all packed and huddled, dust covered, and bumping over the rough roads to work in the onion fields on the outskirts of Tarim in Wadi Hadramout.

These are women agricultural laborers who eke out a meager living working in the fields owned by a rich farmer. Onions are an important crop in Wadi Hadramout that captures the local markets, and quality onions are also being exported. As part of a gender and economic empowerment project formulation mission, UNDP met with a group of 35 women in the onion fields in early 2010.

We ask the women what they do and “How much do you earn daily?” They say that they toil 6 days a week in the onion fields and earn 350 Riyals (around USD 1.5) per day. The small farm equipment and simple hand gloves for the tough

farm work are bought by each woman, while the transport is provided by the farm owner. None of the women have received any agricultural training. They express a keen and earnest interest to participate in a training to expand and diversify agricultural production such as in growing vegetable crops and acquiring new skills, so as to move out of their dire poverty situation. However, they do not have land or any inputs to undertake such activities. Levels of illiteracy are extremely high and only 10 per cent of the group indicated they have a basic education.

Many of the male members in these households have migrated to Mukalla in search of work opportunities, leaving behind the women and children. The desperate need to survive, earn an income and support the children and themselves, has meant that many women who previously and prior to the 2008 floods in Hadramout owned small farms and livestock now provide cheap labour to the rich farmers who are planting and harvesting onions. The damaging floods adversely affected

livelihoods in several districts, and women bear the greatest brunt and hardships.

Moreover, this group is only a microcosm of the many women who make up more than 70 per cent of the unpaid workers in the agricultural sector in Yemen. In Wadi Hadramout and in the rural areas outside the main urban towns, women are important producers of homestead crops and livestock, and their post harvest activities add value to crops produced. While agricultural production is increasingly dependent on women’s labour, they have little or no access to and control of productive resources, ownership of land, opportunities for extension training in agriculture, agro processing, marketing, animal breeding techniques, and few opportunities to access modern tools, new technology and credit to enhance productivity and incomes.

We meet other groups of women, clients of a micro finance programme implemented by a Micro Finance Institution (MFI). They explain that while women have improved access to loans, profits from



their economic activities have yielded low returns. A key problem is the lack of knowledge about markets and market linkages. The fact is that no training in marketing, product quality, and skills training in improved production techniques is provided together with the micro-loans. The experience of other MFIs in Hadramout demonstrates that though micro credit can be a significant entry point, it may not be sufficient to promote sustainable livelihoods for poor women. Micro finance needs to be part of an integrated package of support that includes market identification of promising sectors, market-oriented training, access to and linkages with appropriate technologies, markets, and follow up technical assistance to ensure that poor women and men can sustain and expand their economic activities and build confidence as micro entrepreneurs.

The UNDP mission team engages in a frank and lively discussion with a group of young males in Al-Gorfah community in Seiyun. They emphasize that youth (15-25 years old) in Hadramout feel “left out of the development process and not valued by society”. They are “disenchanted” with the lack

of economic opportunities and the lack of institutional support for young people in their career and job aspirations. Those who do participate in vocational training cannot enter into business or work opportunities because of lack of follow up support in terms of inputs, equipment and technical assistance. For many male youth this leads to problems such as “dropping out of school, qat chewing and a sense of despondency”. “What do you think should be done?” we ask. They explain that youth need encouragement and support with better communication skills, self-

confidence, awareness raising, vocational training opportunities, and assistance with linking them to the job market and or opening a small business or workshops after the training. “We need to be perceived as useful and contributing members of the society” also adding that “we would like to see our sisters better educated”.

Poverty levels in the governorate are as high as 39 per cent particularly in rural areas, but some districts have even higher levels ranging between 40-60 per cent (according to Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, Al -Mukalla and Seiyun Offices Hadramout Governorate, Ministry Of Local Administration, Local Authority Hadramout Governorate, in collaboration with GTZ November 2007). Four districts in Hadramout Wadi out of 16 have been initially proposed for programme implementation, which have high poverty levels as per data from Hadaramout Governorate: Seiyun, 40-50 percent, Tarim, and Al Soum, exceeding 60 percent and Saah. Under/unemployment are major problems and illiteracy rates especially among women keep them

in low skilled economic activities with limited access to vocational training. The “marginalization of women and prevailing traditional practices are contributing factors to poverty” (same source mentioned earlier), as is their low levels of participation and empowerment in the development process.

Based on the above mentioned issues, the innovative UNDP Gender and Economic Empowerment Project is initiated by UNDP in Wadi Hadramout starting out in four districts.

The second part of the story will follow on the next issue.



Gold for UNDP SGBP Website in Yemen Web Awards 2009



*By: Bohdana Rambouskova
Communication Officer
Socotra Governance
Biodiversity Programme
(SGBP)*

The new website of the Socotra Governance and Biodiversity Project (SGBP) at www.socotraproject.org has been awarded the Gold Prize in the Yemen Web Awards 2010. The website was officially launched in January 2010 to deliver information on the project implementation and Socotri biodiversity to three specific target audience



groups: researchers, tourists and journalists. The website is a part of the SGBP corporate identity with the theme “Together to protect the unique island”.

The SGBP website got the first place within the second largest category of Projects & Government. Apart from modern design including a dynamic homepage with a slideshow, the SGBP website is outstanding for its progressive features such as the interactive map and for the content management system that allows the project staff to update the website themselves frequently, even in the

technically challenging conditions of the remote island of Socotra.

Becoming a winner in the Yemen Web Awards means that the SGBP website has qualified for the Middle East finals to be held in Oman in May 2010.

The Web Awards, coordinated annually by a Lebanese organization, is an opportunity for web development

companies to showcase their work and get their successful jobs recognized publicly. The high number of competitors within the Projects &

Government Websites category also shows that non-profit agencies have recognized the power of the Internet and the importance of including a corporate website into their media mix.

Fighting HIV/AIDS in Yemen: A Vignette



*By: Abdullah AlDoraibi
Communications Officer
HIV/AIDS project*



The government of Yemen has trusted UNDP to manage phase II of the HIV/AIDS GFATM grant, for the years 2008 – 2010. The project is funded by the Global Fund for fighting AIDS Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM).

The National AIDS Program (NAP) and the National Population Council (NPC) became Sub-recipients (SR) of the UNDP project for phase II. In addition, the National Blood Transfusion and Research Centre (NBTRC) was involved also as a third sub-recipient during the second year of phase II. UN agencies such as World Health Organization (WHO), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) were partners in the project to provide technical support in their core area of expertise. UNDP manages the fund through well established Project Management

Unit (PMU) based at the National Population Council (NPC).

Starting the first year of phase II, UNDP has strived to successfully achieve the five core contractual indicators, as agreed with the Global Fund. The continuation of the grant for Yemen was dependent on achieving these indicators: service



deliverers trained, People Living With HIV/AIDS (PLWHAs) receiving antiretroviral combination therapy, people receiving counseling & testing, high risk vulnerable persons reached with Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities and staff trained in behavioral surveillance.

The HIV/AIDS Law articulates the right of PLWAs of getting free treatment, counseling and support from the government. The Law also protects PLWHAs from being discriminated and being removed from their jobs. It also demands the government to invest in stopping the spread of the HIV.

The project has been able to make substantial achievement under the leadership of UNDP and Ministry of Public Health and Population and in partnership of WHO, UNAIDS, UNFPA, NPC, NBTRC and NAP.



Statement by UNDP Administrator on Situation in Yemen

18 Feb 2010

Helen Clark, Administrator of the UN Development Programme (UNDP), has welcomed the cease-fire in the conflict between the Government of Yemen and the Houthi rebels.

Miss Clark added that UNDP will work with all parties in support of recovery and development of the region affected by the conflict.

She expressed her concern about the humanitarian situation in the affected region in northern Yemen, especially for some 250,000 persons displaced by the conflict. The Administrator, who is also the Chair of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), added that she hoped that the international community would react positively to the cease-fire by providing urgently needed resources in response to the humanitarian needs caused by the conflict and to allow early recovery from the conflict to begin. The humanitarian community in Yemen, including the United Nations, issued a Humanitarian Response Appeal for 2010 for support to life-saving humanitarian assistance and early recovery efforts in aid of the affected civilian population.

Mine Risk Education Campaign to Target People Affected by Conflict in Sa'ada

Sana'a, 7 March 2010,

A coordinated mine risk education campaign took place on 7th of March 2010 in Yemen, with a focus on displaced and affected communities in Sa'ada, Hajjah and Amran governorates.

The campaign was a joint effort of the National Mine Action Committee, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and Save the Children, with the participation of national civil society organizations.

UNHCR estimates that about 250,000 people have been displaced by the protracted conflict in the north of the country between the Government of Yemen and an armed group known as the Houthis, which began in 2004 and escalated again in August 2009.

In the wake of a recent ceasefire, as people begin to return to their areas of origin, there is an urgent need to address the dangers posed by landmines and unexploded ordnance. The Ministry of Interior reports that since the ceasefire was announced at least five people have been killed and 20 injured as a result of contact with such explosive devices, especially in the area of Malaheet. Most of these are children.

The initial campaign has run for two weeks, but it continued as a regular activity by all child protection actors. The campaign aims to target affected communities and internally displaced persons (IDPs) living inside and outside camps in Sa'ada as well as in the neighbouring governorates of Hajjah and Amran, where thousands of families have fled. The campaign included radio and television messages, banners, posters and leaflets, workshops, and peer education through a child-to-child approach involving school children in the three governorates. Children who do not attend school will be reached through child and youth centers in IDP camps.

Flash News:

- ☞ UNDP Assistant Administrator & Regional Director for Arab States Director, Ms. Amat Al-Alim Alsoswa, concluded a 10-day visit to Yemen on the 3rd of May 2010. Special coverage will be on Yemeniate issue no.4.
- ☞ UNDP Elections project board meeting took place in March.
- ☞ Conflict Development Analysis workshop in Taiz, held in February.
- ☞ A board meeting of "Building National Microfinance Network in Yemen" project was held in January.

For more news, please visit www.undp.org.ye
 For feedbacks on the newsletter, please contact:
yazan.al-saghiry@undp.org



To highlight a worrying example of climate change, this snow is not in Moscow, nor Paris. This is UNDP Yemen parking lot in Sana'a, in April 2010!

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.