

Yemeniate

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UNDP YEMEN QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

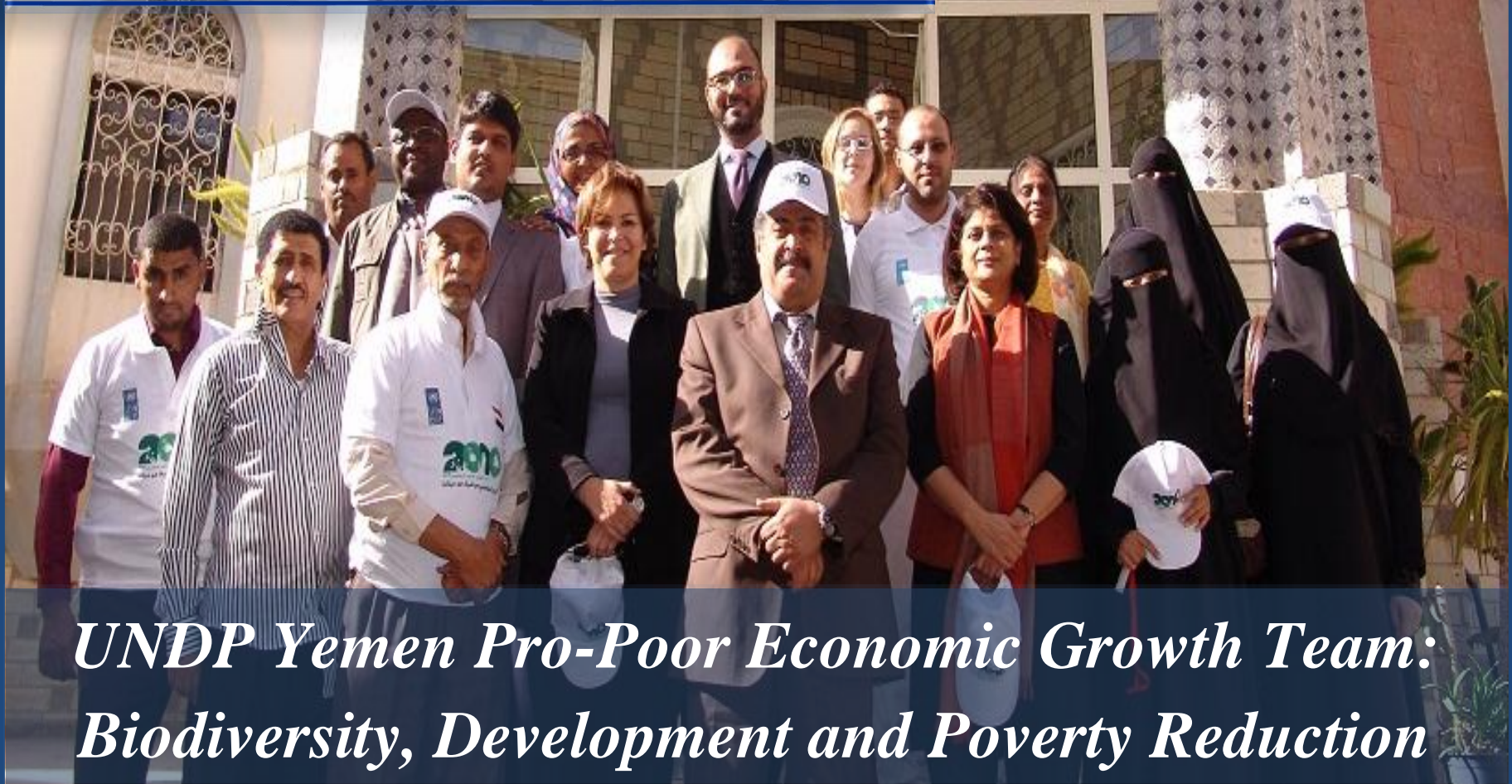
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YEMENIATE MEANS YEMENIZING OUR WORKS AND PROGRAMMES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE YEMENI PEOPLE



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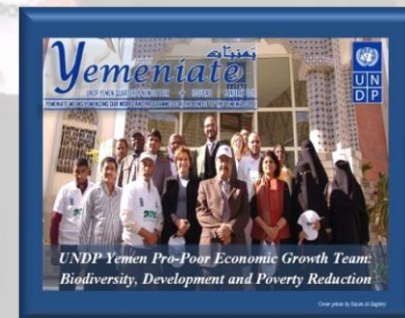
Flash News

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Flash News:

- UNDP Administrator, Ms. Helen Clark concluded a 6 day visit to Yemen on 19 January 2011. Wait for a special coverage on Yemeniate issue no. 7.
- Yemen MDGs Report 2010 was launched in Sana'a, in December. Find more information on page 7.
- Early Recovery Project in Hadramout and AlMahara distributed close to 155 tons of Fertilizer and 64.5 tons of Wheat Seed to the floods affected farmers.

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Biodiversity, Development & Poverty Reduction

By: Pro-Poor Economic Growth Team,
UNDP Yemen

Biodiversity is an important issue that does not only refer to the environmental challenges that affect natural resources and its life; it affects also the quality of life, especially the vulnerable groups such as the poor, women and children. Implementation of the “Biodiversity Conservation and Protection” requires a wide range of stakeholders including: policy-makers, regulators, scientists, academics, business and industry, nongovernmental organizations, the media, farmers, consumers, local communities and other groups.

“Biodiversity is Life and Biodiversity is Our Life”
- A glimpse into Yemen’s 2010 International Biodiversity Year Celebrations:

Commemorating the 2010 International Biodiversity Year celebrations, UNDP and the

Government of Yemen launched “Biodiversity campaign”, through a series of events that started in October, and ended in December 2010. These events aimed at raising awareness among the key stakeholders and public on the significance of biodiversity in sustainable development, poverty reduction and people’s day-to-day lives. They were conducted in Socotra, Aden and Hodeidah and included, painting competitions for school students, tree plantation in schools, awareness programmes among key community stakeholders, cleaning campaigns, road shows, exhibitions, and massive public awareness programmes.

For the first time, different UNDP projects under the “pro-poor economic growth” portfolio, (Sustainable Natural Resources Management, Socotra Governance and Biodiversity Project, Economic Diversification Support Project and Disaster Management Project) along with different government agencies, civil society organizations and schools have joined efforts to demonstrate linkages between biodiversity conservation,

development and poverty reduction at the local level. There was a special focus on employment generation, promotion of green economy and livelihood approaches. The line ministries included, Ministry of Water and Environment, Environment Protection Authority, Cleanness Fund, Ministry of Fish Wealth, Ministry of Education, Civil Defence Authority, and Governors’ Offices in Aden and Hodeidah.

The Biodiversity Week (from 12th December to 19th December) was designated to launch a large biodiversity campaign, through a biodiversity convoy, all over the country. On the 12th December 2010, the weeklong celebrations were officially launched in Hodeidah and attended by high government officials, UNDP management, programme & projects, representatives from schools, universities, public and private sectors. The ‘Biodiversity Convoy’, representing the campaign, travelled along the country coastal plains from Hodeidah to Aden, raising awareness through different programmes among the



Raising awareness in schools

stakeholders. In Aden, the 2nd convoy team from Socotra joined. A public exhibition with all the paintings from competitions and awareness & promotional material on biodiversity was organized from 16th – 19th December 2010 in Aden mall, targeting the general public and school students.

On 19th December 2010, the closing ceremony of the biodiversity campaign was held in Al-Heswa protected area in Aden, which is well known for its demonstrated linkages among biodiversity, poverty reduction and community development. The event was attended by high government officials, UNDP management, programme & projects, representatives from schools, universities, public and private sectors



UNDP Biodiversity Team with UNDP Senior Management



UNDP Yemen Resident Representative Planting a Tree



Children celebrating International Year of Biodiversity 2010

Photo Story 1: Biodiversity Development and Poverty Reduction

Photos by: UNDP Yemen Pro-Poor Economic Growth Team



The convoy marched 1500 km and targeted 1800 local communities



It covered Hodeidah, Aden, Sana'a and Socotra



Over 13500 students participated in the IYBD activities



Students were happy to participate in the cleaning campaigns

Photo Story 2: Biodiversity Development and Poverty Reduction

Photos by: UNDP Yemen Pro-Poor Economic Growth Team



Female students too



Two students playing the UNDP disaster management and preparedness educational game



Number of tree plantings is over 2100



Skits, paintings competitions and games were enjoyed in schools

On the Launch of Yemen MDGs report 2010: **What Yemen would Require to Achieve MDGs by 2015?**



*By: Abdo Seif
Advisor
UNDP Yemen*



Yemen is one of many Least Developed Countries (LDCs) which are not likely to meet any of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. However the 2nd MDG Report published in October 2010 with support from UNDP - <http://www.undp.org.ye/reports/24d06139cb9b57MDG%20Yemen%20English.pdf> - implies that Yemen has the potential to meet some of the MDGs such as (i) universal primary education; (ii) reduce child mortality; (iii) halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases if concerted efforts will be directed towards addressing some of the key challenges. Meanwhile, some progress was

achieved in some goals but it remains below the desired level to reaching the specific targets. These include gender equity and environment sustainability. Conversely, the performance in some other goals relapsed, particularly goals related to extreme poverty and hunger eradication and reduction of maternal mortality.

The report also highlights that lack of progress is due to the new challenges created by the negative effects of the global financial crisis, food crisis, climate change and the security problems (which have exhausted important portion of the country's human and financial resources and cast bleak prospects on investment climate), as well as due to limited available financial resources and the enormous size of the required funding (US \$ 48.4 billion).

In order to achieve some of the MDGs, the government should capitalize on the current results and extend additional resources and appropriate policies and build a solid partnership between all national entities and the international community. In addition, the Government should adopt specific policies, addressing developmental challenges directly and support innovative ideas to enquire developmental results on a sustainable manner.

Over the last two decades, Yemen identified population as a major challenge that undermines Government efforts to meet many of its development results. Despite existence of National Population Council and a national population strategy, Yemen has not been able to contain this challenge over the last two decades. Despite the fact that population



growth has dropped from 3.7% (1994) to 3% (2004), the absolute number of the newly born babies has doubled to over 650 thousand in 2009, compared to 1990 figures. Moreover, it is expected to reach near to 800 thousand by 2015. At the same time, the average economic growth over the last two decade has been on average of 3.5%, which is considered by many national and international economists, and acknowledged in many of the Government and donors publications, as not enough or sufficient to attain any of the MDGs by 2015. . Evidently, rapid population growth in Yemen is positioning itself as a central key challenge. If addressed comprehensively with other interventions in the economic sectors at medium and long term, it could lead to the improvement of health, education, water and malnutrition indicators, as well as increase in the income per capita share, in addition to many other positive indicators as well.

After long consultation with many of the national and international intellectuals, including econometricians, it has been suggested that, based on the current economic growth, and if Yemen wants to attain some of the MDGs by 2015, the number of annually new born babies need to be reduced and should not exceed 500,000 by 2015. In particular, this would require coming up with innovative approaches to increase family planning services to currently

unattended geographical areas of the country (which represents more than 70% of Yemen). One suggestion emerging from one of the discussions was to attach family planning services to the ongoing quarterly door-to-door vaccination campaigns. This endeavor would also require increasing public awareness on population growth and development challenges, at all levels, especially in the rural areas. This can happen through engaging intellectuals, social workers, Fridays Preachers, community leaders' etc. To reduce the annual number of new born babies, Yemen would require to ensure that modern and/or traditional methods for family planning would be used by over 70% of the population.

in the medium-term, and in parallel with the initiative to reduce numbers of new born babies, Yemen would require addressing its high unemployment rates with a special focus on women (over 40% rate of unemployment)

and youth (over 50% rate of unemployment), through diversifying the country's economy. Value chain studies need to be carried out for fishery and agriculture sectors to find opportunities for new jobs creation.. Similar studies would be required for industrial and trade sectors. Moreover, the agriculture sector needs to undertake strategic studies and also utilize previous piloted work on crops such as sunflower and Jojoba, which have potential for agro-industry and new job creation especially for youth and women in the country; if proper value chains are applied.

It is important to note that all of the above innovative ideas would require inclusive peoples' participation, proper accountability and transparency in order to boost progress towards developmental results in a sustainable manner. Also, the good governance 'culture' should be deepening in the population at large. Increasing efficiency of the financial institutions/banking services and access to credit will leverage for a better business environment in the country. Finally, Ensuring justice and rule of law for all is fundamental to all citizens in order to encourage internal and external investment to ensure job creation with decent pay.

An opportunity for change is there, let's work together to use it and get the benefit for the people of Yemen.

Human Rights Day 2010

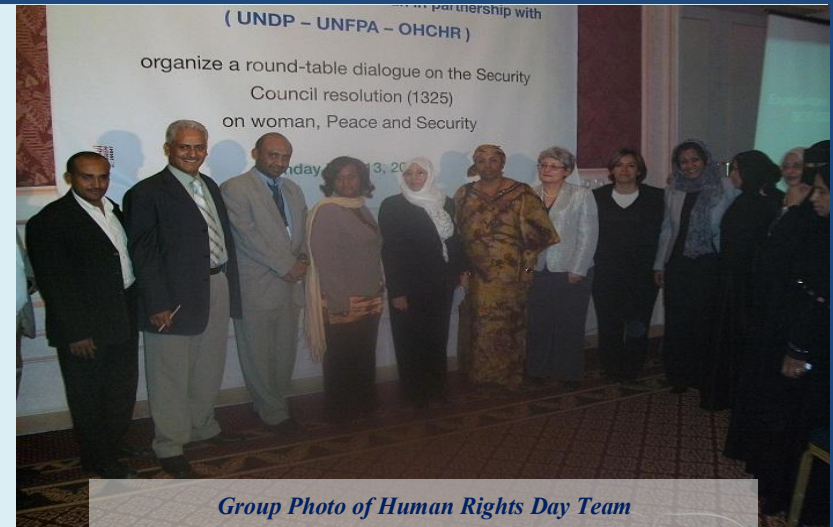


*By: Goretti Mudzongo
Chief Technical Advisor
Enhancing National Human
Rights Capacity in Yemen
UNDP Yemen*

Human Rights Day is celebrated annually across the world on 10th of December. The date was chosen to honor the United Nations General Assembly's adoption and proclamation, on 10 December 1948, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the first global enunciation of human rights. The UDHR has become a universal standard for defending and promoting human rights. Every year on 10 December, Human Rights Day marks the adoption of the Universal Declaration. The day is normally marked by both high-level political conferences and meetings and by cultural events and exhibitions dealing with human rights issues. Many governmental and non-governmental organizations,

active in the human rights field also schedule special events to commemorate the day, as do many Civil Society Organizations. It is celebrated around the globe that "All human beings are born with equal and inalienable rights and fundamental freedoms".

Each year, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights adopts a global theme for celebrating the human rights day. The theme for Human Rights Day, 10 December 2010 was Human Rights Defenders Who Act to End Discrimination. Those people, often at great personal risk to both themselves and their families, were being recognized and acclaimed on this day. Human Rights Day 2010 highlighted and promoted the achievements of human rights defenders and it emphasized the primary responsibility Governments have to enable and protect human rights defenders. The Day was also intended to inspire a new generation of defenders to speak up and take action to end discrimination in all of its forms, whenever and wherever it is manifested. The story does not end after 10 December 2010. The focus on the work of human rights defenders will continue through all of 2011. In his human rights day message, the UN Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-moon, pointed out that "When the lives of human rights advocates are endangered, we are all less secure. When the voices of human rights advocates are silenced, justice itself is drowned out. On this Human Rights Day, let us be inspired by those seeking to make our world more just. And let us remember that everyone -- no matter their background, training or education -- can be a human rights



Group Photo of Human Rights Day Team

champion. So let us use that power. Let us each be a human rights defender".

In Yemen, UNDP and the Ministry of Human Rights through Enhancing National Human Rights Capacities in Yemen Project, celebrated human rights day within the global theme of speaking up to stop discrimination. The activities aimed at creating and raising human rights awareness especially on the theme of ending discrimination. They also aimed to inspire and encourage everyone to be a human rights defender and speak out against discrimination which is a basis in most cases of human rights violations. Multiple stakeholders were engaged and involved in the human rights day events: secondary school students through the national human rights poster competition, CSOs, donors, UN agencies and line-ministries through the public event marked to celebrate the day and stakeholders defending women's rights and gender equality through the roundtable on Resolution 1325 on women peace and security. The turnout and participation in these events was overwhelming and encouraging,

indicating that the message for the human rights day had reached broad and wide audiences. The events were further widely covered by electronic and press media.

Highlights from the Human Rights Day events 2010:

1. School poster competition

The Project, in partnership with the Ministries of human rights and education, conducted a national human rights schools poster competition, for secondary school students. The theme of the competition was discrimination. Over 100 entries were received from students. The aim of the competition was to create awareness among school children on discrimination. The winning art drawing was printed as the official human rights day poster and disseminated widely. The three winners were awarded prizes by the Deputy Prime Minister at the public event held to commemorate the human rights day.

2. Human Rights Day public event: 11 December 2010

The human rights day public event was held on the 11th of December and was attended by approximately 450 people. Among the attendees were 9 cabinet ministers, UNDP senior management, NGOs, CSO, diplomats and some donors. The deputy prime minister delivered the keynote address. The Minister of Human Rights, UN Resident Coordinator, and 2 human rights NGOs made keynote addresses.

3. EU Consultation Meeting on Human Rights Defenders: 14 December 2010

The Project collaborated with the EU on their consultative meeting on human rights defenders

which was held to celebrate the human rights Day on 14 December 2010. The project facilitated the participation of the ministry of human rights, through the presentation of a paper by the international department on the Universal Periodic Review. Further, the Project and the EU printed a brochure on the declaration of human rights defenders as a joint initiative. The brochures were disseminated at the MOHR public event and the EU event.

4. Roundtable dialogue on UN Security Council 1325: 13 December 2010

The project organized the roundtable on 1325, in partnership with the Ministry of Human Rights within the human rights day theme of speaking up to stop discrimination. The roundtable was organized with the cooperation and collaboration of five agencies; MoHR, UNDP, UNFPA, regional office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS). The UNDP Gender and Economic Empowerment Advisor also provided input to the roundtable. The aim of the roundtable was to create awareness on the Resolution, share Sudanese experience of its implementation, print & disseminate a brochure of the resolution and develop recommendations of applicability of the resolution in Yemen. The roundtable achieved all the objectives set out. The roundtable was well attended by approximately 50 participants from Government, CSOs, donors and academics. There was a good representation of male participants as well. The Minister for Human Rights, the UN Resident Coordinator and the UNFPA Deputy Representative delivered key note addresses. The Chief of Gender Unit from UNMIS, Ms. Amina Adams gave the background and overview of the resolution. She shared the experiences of Sudan in

implementing the resolution. The resolution had made positive impact in Sudan, where it has been translated into 5 different languages and increased the number of women in leadership and decision making positions at the end of the April 2010 National elections in Sudan, among other outcomes. Some of the lessons learnt in Sudan include mobilizing funding for implementation of the resolution, ensuring women and stakeholders clearly understood the provisions of the resolution and use it as advocacy and lobbying tool, and bringing together women of diverse groups to share their experiences. The roundtable participants came up with a number of recommendations which include, forming working group/friends of 1325 on 1325, translating it into accessible language, collaborating with religious leaders in raising awareness of the resolution, and requesting UNDP to mobilize funding for implementing the resolution. The feedback on the workshop from participants was positive and they emphasized their hope that this would not be a once off event.

OXFAM GB and UNDP Yemen Gender and Economic Empowerment Project

Sign a Memorandum of Understanding



Ms. Randa Aboul-Hosn, UNDP Yemen Country Director, and Mr. Musa El Tayeb, OXFAM GB Country Director sign the MoU

Sana'a, 23 November 2010,

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on 23 November 2010 to “collaborate for promoting women’s economic empowerment in Hadramout governorate”. The MoU between the UNDP Gender and Economic Empowerment Project (GEE) and OXFAM GB envisages the implementation of activities and actions to lay the foundations of partnership between UNDP and OXFAM GB relevant projects.

Through this Memorandum, two of OXFAM GB projects: “Integrated Action on the Safe Age of Marriage and Women's Economic Empowerment” and “Good Governance in the Implementation and

Monitoring of the Third Five-Year Plan 2006 to 2010” will work closely with the UNDP GEE to enhance their abilities to deliver better results.

UNDP and OXFAM GB will facilitate information sharing and exchange in relevant areas such as advocacy for change, market opportunities, training in empowering skills and access to microfinance for poor women.

In addition, UNDP GEE and OXFAM GB will complement their advocacy work on issues related to gender, livelihoods and employment, safe age of marriage and gender sensitive policies and practices.

Moreover, both parties have agreed to capitalize on each other’s methods and networks to achieve their mutual objectives.

The MoU will be implemented in collaboration with key national stakeholders such as Hadramout Governorate, related line ministries, Women National Committee, Yemen Women Union, private sector, training institutions, CSOs, and others.

Training Imams in Seiyun on Gender and Economic Empowerment



UNDP Country Director's remarks in the closing ceremony

Seiyun, 6 December 2010,

A Training of Trainers Workshop for Imams in Seiyun/ Hadramout Governorate took place from (4 December – 6 December) in AlAhqaf Hotel, in partnership between the UNDP, represented by the Gender and Economic Empowerment project (GEE), and the Department of Guidance and Endowment in Hadramout Governorate.

The training helped in coaching a selected number of Imams on UNDP GEE objectives, gender concepts and gender dimensions in economic life. In addition, the training aimed to strengthen the Imams' professional competence to convey gender sensitive messages to the public, including women and youth, and promote advocacy and awareness raising in the communities.

The workshop outlined the role that religious leaders play to influence positive change in the

communities apart from their customary role. Given their standing and important role in society, they can make a tremendous difference in local communities by raising public awareness on gender concepts and in particular on gender in the economic sphere. They can facilitate greater citizen participation and understanding on the role of women and youth in economic development.

In the closing ceremony, Ms. Randa Aboul-Hosn, UNDP Yemen Country Director, said: *“The United Nations Development Programme is committed to work with all segments of the society in order to achieve economic empowerment for all vulnerable groups, including women and youth”*.

By the end of the training, religious leaders prepared a follow up plan to benefit from the learning they received on their districts level.

The closing ceremony was attended by the Assistant Deputy Governor of Hadramout, Mr. Fahd Al Aajam, officials from Government, Civil Society Organizations, UNDP, and others.

The UNDP GEE is a community based initiative covering four districts, Al Soum, Sah, Seiyun, and Tareem in Wadi Hadramout Governorate. The project is an integral part of the UNDP Country Office Gender Strategy. It contributes to the economic and social empowerment of women and youth, improved livelihoods, rights, and gender sensitive policy support.

On the International Day of Volunteers: Volunteering for the MDGs

Article and Photos by: UNV Yemen

Sana'a, 5 December 2010



On the International Volunteer Day, we recognize millions of people around the world who give their time and talent to tackle global challenges: from volunteers working in their own communities on climate change adaptation and poverty reduction to those supporting global causes of peace, justice and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The global theme for IVD 2010 was “Volunteering for the MDGs”. The theme reminds people around the world of the difference that they can make, and reminds them that the deadline to achieve the MDGs is near. It is an opportunity to highlight and showcase how volunteerism is contributing to

achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

This year in Yemen, the day was celebrated in partnership with Al-Rahma Foundation; this organization was chosen to host this event due to the work they do. They provide girls who are abused with a safe place to grow and learn. The foundation is an example of the vibrant volunteering attitude in Yemen, where there are a number of women who give their time willingly to help the children, be it as teachers, nurses or mothers to the infants who live at the orphanage.

This day also celebrates the involvement of many volunteers working in Yemen with government, NGOs, civil society and in their own communities to improve the lives of people around them. The UN Volunteers currently has 35 UNVs both national and international working in Yemen

working with various UN agencies and in their free time volunteering at the grassroots level, from providing English classes to engaging with youth organizations.

The children from the orphanage were actively engaged in the daylong event. National and International UN Volunteers provided fun games and presentations to teach the children about the MDGs and how volunteerism helps in achieving them. They also set the example to the kids of how it feels to be a volunteer.

From the eight global MDGs, three have been chosen to be concentrated on the day: Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education, Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women, and Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability.

In addition, the volunteers and the children planted trees in the new courtyard of the orphanage. The UN Volunteers programme in Yemen funded and organized this event, to honor volunteering as an expression of our common humanity and a way to promote mutual respect, solidarity and reciprocity.

In collaboration with staff from UN Agencies the UN Volunteers programme made a contribution of blankets, books, games, and cloths to Al-Rahma Foundation.

The celebration was attended by Ms. Pratibha Mehta, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, and Ms. Roquaia Al Hijri, Director of Al- Rahma Foundation, and other UN officials.

The 2010 IVD marked the launch of the 10th anniversary of the 2001 International Year of Volunteers (IYV+10) which is an opportunity for people all around the world to join a global effort to reinvigorate the spirit of volunteerism. In 1985, the United Nations General Assembly designated 5 December as an annual celebration of voluntary action by people, communities and governments of the world. International Volunteer Day (IVD) is for volunteers of all walks of life working in communities around the globe. The United Nations Volunteers programme (UNV) is the designated international focal point for IVD. More information is available on the interactive web site www.worldvolunteerweb.org. UN Volunteers is administered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).



Group Photo with the UN Resident Coordinator Ms. Pratibha Mehta



Sculpture Presented by Arab Women to United Nations

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



**Wishing you
Peace,
Solidarity,
and Happiness in 2011**

**Pratibha Mehta
UN Resident and Humanitarian
Coordinator
Sana'a, Yemen**

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.