

UNDP Administrator Visits Yemen



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



UNDP Administrator Six Day Trip to Yemen

Mrs Helen Clark, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Administrator and United Nations Development Group (UNDG) Chair, arrived in Yemen for a six-day official visit on Thursday 20 January 2011.

During the mission, Helen Clark met with high-level government officials and visited UNDP projects. Ms. Clark also signed a number of agreements and projects to promote the developmental work between Yemen and the UN.

In addition to meeting with high-level officials and visiting projects, Ms. Clark met with the UN country team, donor community, civil society, women's groups, and community leaders. She was accompanied by Ms. Amat Al-Alim Alsoswa, UNDP Regional Director for Arab States, and other UNDP high officials.



UNDP Administrator visits Socotra; Lauds Rosh Community for Biodiversity Work



Helen Clark presents the Equator Prize to Rosh community in Socotra

On Friday, 21 January 2011, UNDP Administrator Helen Clark visited the Socotra Archipelago to present the Equator Prize to the Rosh Protected Area Community.

The Equator Initiative, a United Nations-led partnership that supports local and indigenous efforts in biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation, announced, in July 2010, the twenty-five winners of the Equator Prize 2010

following an extensive technical review process. Among the winners was the Rosh Protected Area Community from Yemen. On 20 September 2010, representatives of winning communities attended the Equator Prize 2010 Award Ceremony at the American Museum of Natural History in New York during a High-Level event titled: *Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Climate Change: Scaling Up Local*

Solutions to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The event, which was held in conjunction with the United Nations General Assembly and MDG 2010 Review Summit, attracted over 500 participants, including: heads of state, ministers and members of the diplomatic corps from more than 60 countries; celebrities serving as UN Goodwill Ambassadors; top officials from UN

agencies, civil society organizations, foundations and the private sector; leading academics and experts; and the media. Photos, video footage, and speeches from the event are available at www.equatorinitiative.org.

For logistical reasons, the Rosh Community could not participate in the Equator Prize 2010 Award Ceremony. Accordingly, UNDP Administrator decided to present the Prize to the Community

during her visit in Socotra.

“We know that many local and indigenous communities have been able to convert their environmental assets into sustainable livelihoods without compromising the environment for future generations,” said Helen Clark. “And the Equator Prize celebrates their efforts. Prize winners show us that it would be a false choice to say either development progress or conservation of our eco-

systems and biodiversity. We can do both. And we must do both.”

Rosh is a Marine Protected Area located off the northern coast of Socotra, an island in the Indian Ocean off the coast of Yemen. Socotra is a World Heritage site, renowned for its 825 plant species (37 percent found nowhere else) as well as its highly endemic reptiles and snails and rich marine life. Rosh traditionally belongs to the Sacra and Diherhom villages. The initiative started as an eco-campsite and conservation area to address decreases in fisheries production and to counter an attempt by the coastal land-owner to sell off the territory, thereby depriving villagers of direct management over the marine resources. The campsite has created new jobs, functions on a benefit-sharing enterprise, and uses solar panel technology and sustainable water management techniques.

In addition to being celebrated at the Equator Prize 2010 Award Ceremony, Rosh Protected Area Community received a monetary award of US\$ 5,000.

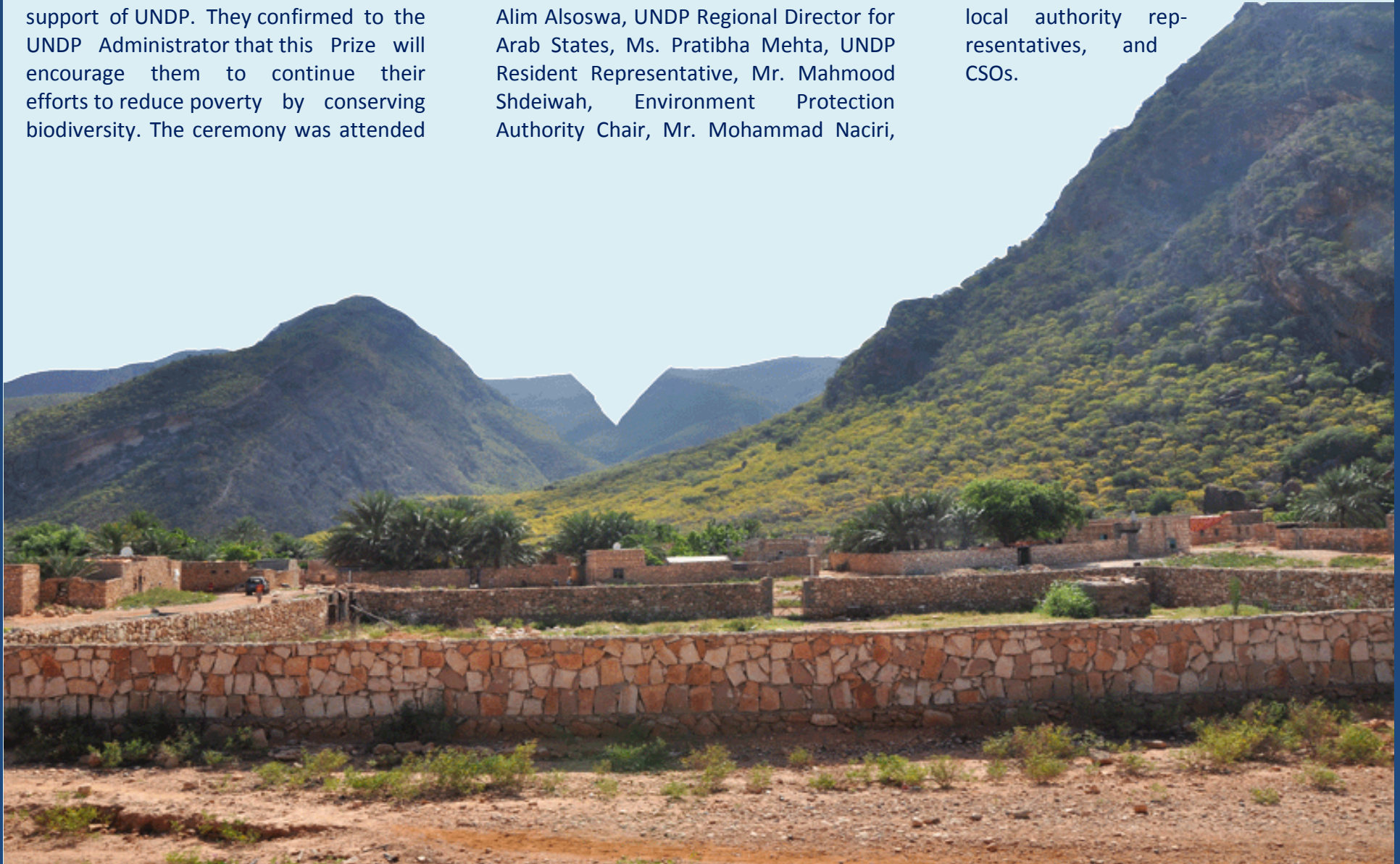


The audience

Rosh Community hailed the visit of the Administrator and the continuous support of UNDP. They confirmed to the UNDP Administrator that this Prize will encourage them to continue their efforts to reduce poverty by conserving biodiversity. The ceremony was attended

by Eng. Abdulrahman Al-Eryani, Minister of Water and Environment, Ms. Amat Al-Alim Alsoswa, UNDP Regional Director for Arab States, Ms. Pratibha Mehta, UNDP Resident Representative, Mr. Mahmood Shdeiwah, Environment Protection Authority Chair, Mr. Mohammad Naciri,

UNDP Deputy Country Director, senior officials from Government and UNDP, local authority representatives, and CSOs.



UNDP Administrator signed two important projects reaffirming UNDP's support to the Yemen's development

Sunday, 23 January 2011,



UNDP Administrator Helen Clark and Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Abdulkareem Al Arhabi signing the two projects

On the fourth day of her official visit to Yemen, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Administrator and the United Nations Development Group Chair, Ms. Helen Clark, signed two important project documents between UNDP and the Government of Yemen.

The first project is the UNDP Integrated Social Cohesion & Development Project (ISCD). With initial 4-year duration and a total budget of US\$ 8,573,000, the project aspires to promote social cohesion

concepts and culture among all segments of the society, and to prevent conflict through community driven development approaches. It will enhance the existing local governance reforms to build a closer interaction between the local government and the communities.

On the economic front, the project aims to train and empower the local communities to assess their needs, set their priorities and decide on the realization of projects that will be funded up to \$10,000 per village. Of this amount, \$4,000 will be earmarked exclusively for women and youth initiatives. A “support

system” of local Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), UN Volunteers, and Government technical line departments will facilitate Community Planning and Community-managed projects. Special Sports & Cultural activities will be sponsored to promote public understanding of the Integrated Social Cohesion and Development.

The project will be implemented with the Government of Yemen, represented by the Ministry of Local Administration, UN agencies, INGOs, NGOs and others.

The project document was signed by Mr. Abdulkareem Al-Arhabi, Deputy Prime

Minister for Economic Affairs and Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, Mr. Rashad Al-Alimi, Deputy Prime Minister for Security and Defense and Minister of Local Administration, and Ms. Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator.

The second one is the UNDP Community Driven Early Recovery in Saada Project. With a total budget of US\$ 4,200,000, this 3-year project aims at contributing to the Government's plans to stabilize the situation in Saada.

This project is a response to the community's needs and aims at empowering Internal Displaced Persons (IDPs), orphans, disabled, women and youth of Saada to identify their priorities, and design, implement and monitor their projects.

To achieve its vision, the project seeks to address four main priorities; (1) increase agriculture Productivity and income generation to improve the living conditions of

affected people; (2) improve micro and small enterprises and key infrastructure rehabilitation; (3) build the local communities' capacities in executing early recovery in Saada; and (4) empower women and youth, socially and economically. Furthermore, the project will set the foundation for a longer-term economic and social development agenda.

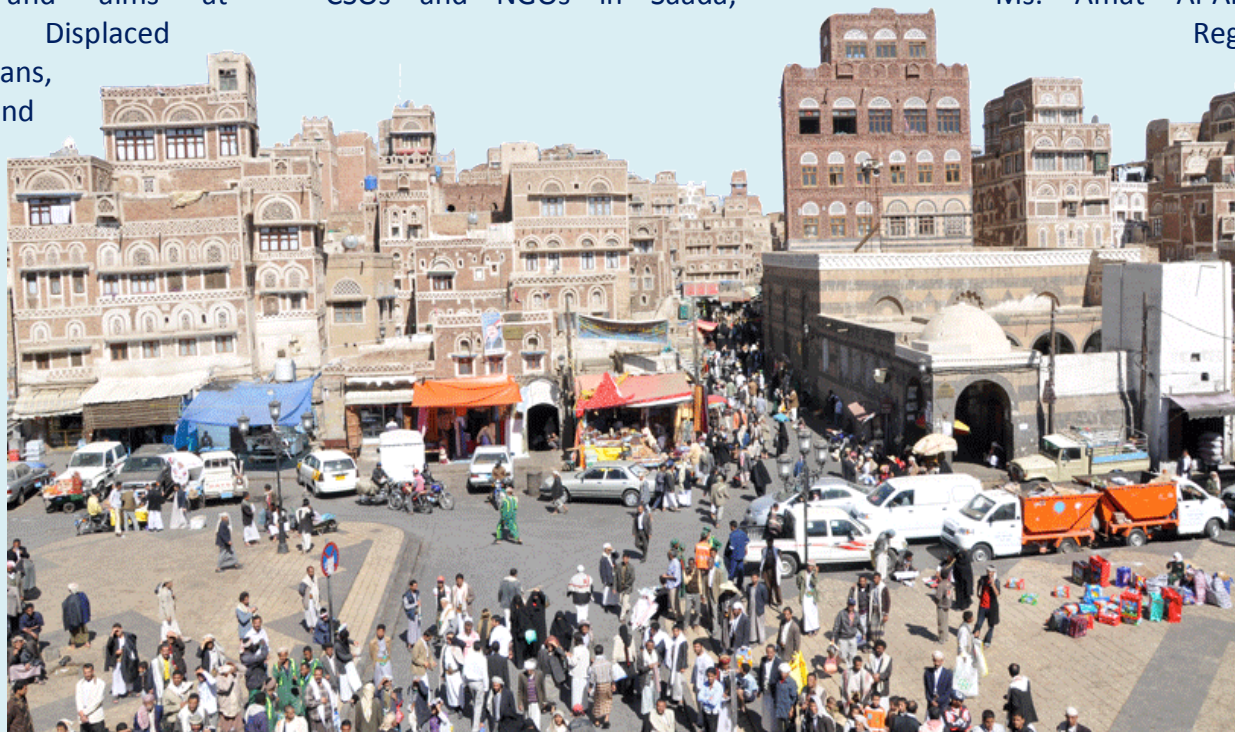
The project will be implemented through an effective partnership with the Sa'ada Reconstruction Fund, local authorities, CSOs and NGOs in Saada,

United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), Foods and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Labor Organization (ILO), World Food Programme (WFP), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Islamic Relief, and OXFAM.

The project document was signed by Mr. Abdulkareem Al-Arhabi, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs and Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, and Ms. Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator.

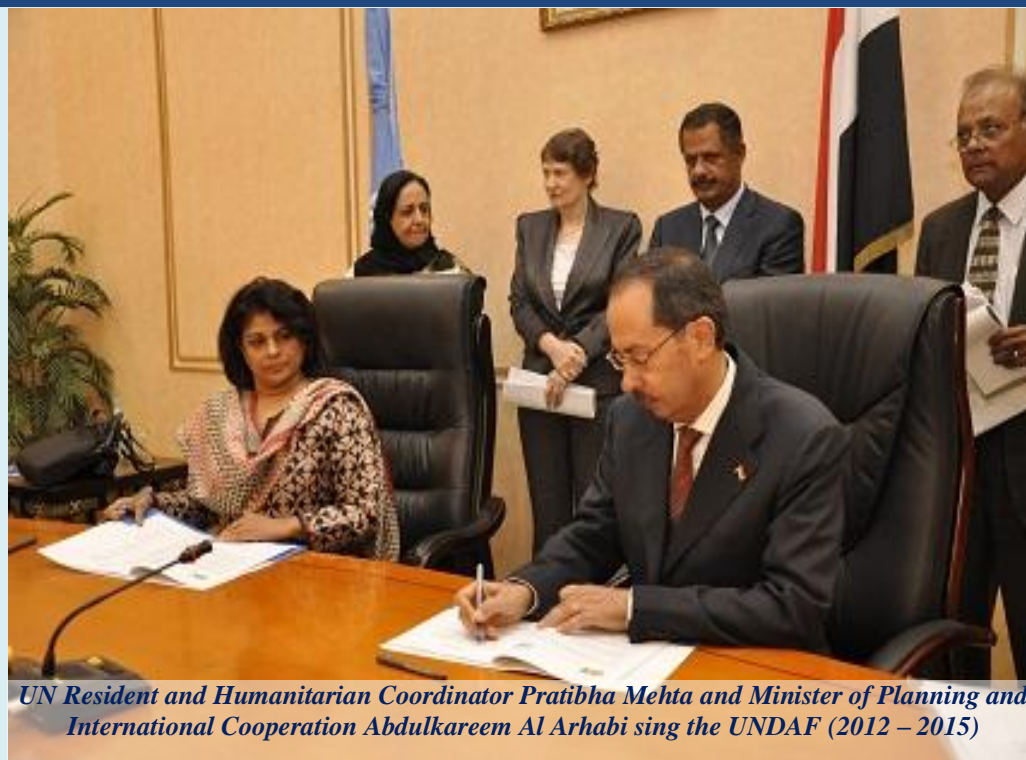
The signing ceremony was attended by: Ms. Amat Al-Alim Alsoswa, UNDP Regional Director for

Arab States; Ms. Pratibha Mehta, UNDP Resident Representative; Ms. Randa Aboul-Hosn, UNDP Country Director; Mr. Mohammad Naciri, UNDP Deputy Country Director; key officials from the government, UNDP and others.



Yemen Prime Minister and UNDP Administrator witnessed the signature of the new United Nations Development Assistance Framework

Sunday, 23 January 2011,



UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Pratibha Mehta and Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Abdulkareem Al Arhabi signing the UNDAF (2012 – 2015)

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, on behalf of the Government of Yemen, signed the new United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2012 – 2015 for Yemen, in the presence of the Yemeni Prime Minister, Dr. Ali Mohammad Mujawar and the

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Administrator and the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) Chair, Ms. Helen Clark. The UNDAF is the strategic programme framework that describes the collective response of the UN system to Yemen's development priorities. Considering that 2015 is the end date of the Fourth Development Plan for Poverty Reduction

and of the new UNDAF, and that this coincides with the MDGs deadline, this UNDAF focuses on supporting the efforts of the Government and the people of Yemen to accelerate progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. In order to align the UNDAF cycle with the Fourth Development Plan for Poverty Reduction 2011 to 2015, it was agreed

that the new UNDAF will have duration of four years, instead of five years, and cover the period 2012-2015.

The UNDAF was developed through a consultative process involving the UNCT, the Government of Yemen (GOY), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). It highlights four main priority areas of focus; (1) Inclusive and diversified economic growth; (2) sustainable and equitable access to quality basic social services; (3) women and youth

empowerment; and (4) good governance and social cohesion.

The newly signed UNDAF will enhance the quality of support to address Yemen's developmental and humanitarian needs. Overall, the resource envelop for the new UNDAF is US\$ 395,081,000 from all sources, for the period 2012 – 2015. Of this amount, \$ 378,681,000 (95.97 %) will be contributed by resident agencies and \$ 16,400,000 (4.03 %) will be contributed by non-resident agencies. This marks a significant increase over the current

UNDAF 2007-2011, which has a resource envelope of US\$ 274,000,000.

The UNDAF document was signed by Mr. Abdulkareem Al-Arhabi, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs and Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, and Ms. Pratibha Mehta, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator. The signing ceremony was attended by Ms. Amat Al-Alim Alsoswa, UNDP Regional Director for Arab States, several UN heads of agencies, high government and UNDP officials and others.



Prime Minister of Yemen, UNDG Chair, UN Resident & Humanitarian Coordinator, and UN heads of agencies

UNDP Administrator visits UN projects in Amran Governorate

Amran, Tuesday 25 January 2011,

On her last field visit trip in Yemen, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Administrator and United Nations Development Group (UNDG) Chair Ms. Helen Clark visited three UN projects in Amran Governorates.

First, she visited the UNDP Mine Detection Dogs Center in Wadhi Dahr, in Amran Governorate. UNDP Administrator was shown dogs' skills in detecting mines under difficult circumstances and in difficult terrains. In addition, the project presented to the UNDP Administrator the

impressive achieved results in demining vast areas of the country and the plans for the future.

The center was established in 2001, with support from the Government of Germany. It is part of the UNDP Yemen long intervention to improve mine detection in mine survey and clearance. It contributes to the Government fulfilling its mine-ban treaty obligations under the Ottawa convention by 1 March 2015.

In the last four decades, Yemen witnessed a number of armed conflicts, each leaving behind significant levels of landmine and



Helen Clark visited UN projects in Thula

explosive remnants of war (ERW). Due to topography and environmental conditions in Yemen, demining operations in many mine polluted areas are difficult, risky and costly. Accordingly, mine detection dogs are suitable for such locations as they prove to be faster and more cost effective compared to manual demining.

Furthermore, the Landmines Impact Survey results clearly indicate that use of mine detection dogs is suitable in most of mine suspected areas in Yemen.



Mine Action Training

The project further strengthens and develops the management and technical capacities of the Yemen Mine Action Center to ensure smooth operations and sustainability.

In her capacity as the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) Chair, Ms. Helen Clark also visited the World Food Programme (WFP) Health Center in Thula, in Amran Governorate. She reviewed the services delivered by the health center such as screening women and children for malnutrition, support them with food assistance, offer basic training and

education on good nutrition, and others. WFP reached 11,100 beneficiaries last year though eight health facilities (one rural hospital, two health centers, and five health units).

Also, UNDG Chair visited UNICEF Outpatient Therapeutic Care Program (OTP) at

the Thula Hospital. Since December 2010, a total of 53 severely malnourished children have been referred to and undergone the program, which is an eight-week regimen of therapeutic feeding. UNICEF runs 356 Outpatient Therapeutic Care Program (OTP) centers around Yemen, and is set to double the number in this year 2011. During her visit, Ms. Clark announced that the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) will formulate and implement a UN Joint Program on Food Security and Nutrition, under the new United Nations

Development Assistance Framework. The program will be part of Government efforts to implement the national food security and nutrition action plans.

Helen Clark was accompanied by: Amat Al-Alim Alsoswa, UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States Director, Pratibha Mehta, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator – UNDP Resident Representative, and other high UN and Government officials.

UN Development Chief calls for increased support to Yemen in face of challenges

Wrapping up her visit to Yemen, on 26 January 2011, the Chair of the United Nations Development Group and UNDP Administrator Helen Clark welcomed the increased international interest being shown in supporting Yemen to tackle the challenges it faces, and expressed her hope that it will be translated into increased support for Yemen's development.

"Yemen is confronting a range of concurrent challenges which need urgent attention," she said. "With international support and with commitment in Yemen to drive a reform agenda, a step change in development is possible."

On 24 January, Helen Clark met with President Ali Abdullah Saleh, to discuss how the UN development system can play its part in supporting Yemen to overcome its development challenges and make progress on the MDGs. At that meeting, she noted the importance of broad participation in the upcoming elections so that, like the 2006 elections, they are widely agreed to be credible. She added that continued political dialogue is needed to achieve that outcome. She underscored UNDP's technical support to the national commission responsible for overseeing the conduct of those elections.

In addition, Helen Clark met with the Prime Minister, the two Deputy Prime Ministers, other ministers and officials, and the Supreme Commission on Elections and Referenda. She also met with donors, the UN country team, women and youths from many walks of life, and civil society organizations.

With respect to tensions in the north and the south of the country, as well as general security issues, Helen Clark said that UNDP's approach focuses on addressing the underlying drivers of tension and conflict, which include underdevelopment, and on promoting community based dialogue and conflict resolution.



The future of Yemen



The United Nations Secretary-General strongly condemns the use of live ammunition against demonstrators in Sana'a

The United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon strongly condemns the use of live ammunition against demonstrators in Sana'a on Friday 18/03/2011 that has reportedly left tens of people killed and injured.

The Secretary-General is deeply troubled by the continuing violence and instability in Yemen.

He reiterates his call for utmost restraint and reminds the Government of Yemen that it has an obligation to protect civilians. He calls on all to desist from any provocative acts that might lead to further violence.

The Secretary-General believes that there is no alternative to an inclusive dialogue on political, social and economic reform to address Yemen's political crisis and maintain its national unity.

Yemen fighting worsening already dire humanitarian situation, warns UN official.

On the other hand, Valerie Amos, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator called for restraint by all sides in Yemen, warning that the ongoing violence is worsening an already dire humanitarian situation.

It is estimated that the recent political turmoil in Yemen, part of a wave of protests across the Middle East and North Africa calling for social, economic and democratic reforms, has led to more than 82 deaths and hundreds of injuries.

"I am especially concerned about the humanitarian situation in Yemen because, even before the recent protests, the country was facing a humanitarian crisis due to protracted conflict in the north displacing 300,000 people, some of them multiple times," said Amos.

"The recent fighting has again affected hundreds of people that have not recovered from earlier conflict," she added, urging those involved to refrain from violence and ensure the safety of civilians.

According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the country is also facing acute water and food shortages. Some 31.5 per cent of the population is food-insecure, and approximately 12 per cent – or 2.7 million people – are severely food insecure.

Ms. Amos noted that some humanitarian agencies are having difficulty reaching those in need due to insecurity. The UN is discussing access with both the Government and the Al-Houthi rebels. "I hope we will have a meaningful agreement on access soon," she stated.

"The prolonged and chronic suffering in the country means that humanitarian aid continues to be urgently needed."

Both Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the UN human rights office have voiced their concern about the situation in Yemen, where a state of emergency has been declared. Mr. Ban has called for a broad dialogue with the political opposition, youth groups and other elements of civil society leading to "bold" reforms in country.

New York, 18 March 2011



Helen Clark and Amat Al-Alim Alsoswa with UNDP Yemen Staff

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