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## Japan sponsors new Sana'a projects



Japanese ambassador Mitsunori Namba shakes hands with the deputy governor of Sana'a governorate, Abdul-Malek Al-Gharbi, at the launch of Japanese funded water and health projects. Photo Supplied

By: Yemen Times Reporter

SANA'A, Dec. 22 – Thousands of residents in Jihana District, in Sana'a governorate, are set to benefit from a water and medical project funded by the Japanese embassy in Yemen.

The Japanese government's scheme, Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects, has donated

USD1.5-million towards these projects from April 2009 to March this year.

This month it funded focused on Jihana District where it launched two projects, the 'Improving Water Supply System' and 'Providing Medical Equipment to Mohammed Al-Dorah Hospital'. The water project cost USD 78,346 grant and will be "used for

improving water supply system" to approximately 5,800 beneficiaries daily.

A further USD68,200 was donated to the Mohammed Al-Dorah Hospital to purchase medical equipment to improve the intensive care units, operation room and other facilities. About 250,000 persons would likely benefit from this project.

## 'We have autism and we're still human'

By: Mahmood Al-Matari

SANA'A, Dec. 22— The Yemen Foundation for Special Education and Autism yesterday held its third annual charity bazaar under the slogan 'Sorry, I am Human'.

Soud Al-Eryani, who launched the foundation in 2005, said that their work aimed to help those with autism. Al-Eryani said that she started the foundation because her daughter has autism.

"The foundation depends on charity but that does not cover what we really need. The bazaar aims to make people aware about autism and to collect funds for the foundation," said Al-Eryani.

"We help 215 autistic children and adults at the foundation. They have different types of autism and are from different nationalities."

Um Al-Riashi, the foundation's executive manager, said that autism is a "disorder of neural development characterized by impaired social interaction and communication, and by restricted and repetitive behaviour".

Sukaynah Ali Al-Eryani, a trainer of behaviour modification at the foundation, said that "society does not accept autistic people as a result of low awareness".

Um Faris Mohamed Jahaf, also a mother of an autistic child, said that her "son's body was really weak since he was born".



Sukayna Ali Al-Eryani, a trainer of behavior modification, with Ibraheem who has autism.

"I and his father took him to many doctors in Yemen but without any results. Then we travelled to Jordan to check his problem and there one doctor told us that he is autistic," said Um Faris.

"He is smart and can remember any picture, people and streets we have been to before but he cannot express his feelings to others. Until now there is no medication for autism but I bring him to the foundation daily for training

and to communicate with other autistic people."

For more autism information or help contact the Yemen Foundation for Special Education and Autism on 01-417-196.

## Violations against MPs

By: Ahmed Al-Zikri

SANA'A, Dec. 20 – A delegation of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) investigating violations against Yemeni MPs last week completed a three-day visit to Yemen. An independent MP Ahmed Saif Hashed and socialist MPs Naser Al-Khabji, Salah Al-Shunfra, Aidaroos Naser and Sultan Al-Samiee had complained to the IPU's Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians that they had been oppressed and abused by Yemeni

government authorities.

The had complained about several violations of their rights, including attempted abduction, illegal interrogation, harassment, physical abuse and threats. The IPU is expected to issue a statement about democracy in Yemen that is based on the recent mission as well as previous reports and visits. However, the statement is unlikely to include new insights into the alleged violations as the release of the findings requires the Yemeni government's approval.

## Yemen's oil revenues set to rise on West's winter weather

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, Dec. 22 – Yemen's oil revenues are set to increase due to a rise in world oil prices. Cold weather in Europe and North America have exacerbated an unexpected fall in crude stocks, and has caused the price of oil to climb to above USD90 per barrel for only the third time in two years.

Crude oil prices have jumped 11 percent from USD81 on Nov. 22 to just over USD90 on Dec. 22.

The extra income will go towards the shortfall in the government's budget. In October the government requested approval from parliament for additional bud-

get funds. The cabinet approved a 2011 draft budget with a deficit of YR302 billion (USD 1.4 billion).

Yemen exports around 85 percent of its daily output of 298,000 barrels of oil. The World Bank said oil exports account for 65 percent of Yemen's fiscal revenue.

Ahmed Saif, an economist and head of the Sheba Center for Strategic Studies, told the Yemen Times that the increase in world oil prices would bring in substantial extra cash for the government's budget. But he added that the extra income is only a temporary solution and Yemen's budget is in urgent need of other alternatives as its oil reserves deplete.

## Gender studies takes off

By: Ayham Al-Atoom

SANA'A, Dec. 22 – Sana'a University has launched a new international development master's degree program, the first of its kind in the Gulf region.

It launched this week in cooperation with the American University in Cairo (AUC) and the Roskilde University in Denmark.

The degree course will mainly focus on development issues including modern approaches to development and social gender, development concepts and the development triangle, which is represented in the market, community and government.

The program will be taught in English

by professors and tutors from AUC and the Roskilde University, according to Dr. Ahmed Al-Kibsi, Vice Rector of Sana'a University for Academic Affairs.

The module focusing on social gender issues is expected to bring about a change in social status in Yemen, especially on women's role in community development, according to Al-Kibsi.

Dr. Khaled Al-Tumaim, rector of Sana'a University, said that the new program is an extension of the different activities, carried out at the university by the Gender Development Research and Studies Centre (GDRSC), towards empowering women's role in economic development.

## CORRECTION

In the article, 'Lebanon University wins inter-college debate' published on Page 3 in the Yemen Times on Monday, December 20, it was incorrectly stated that Lebanon University won a British Council debating contest. Dr. Mourad Al-Alazzany, professor at Sana'a University's faculty of education, informed the Yemen Times that the competition judge incorrectly announced the winning team. Al-Azzany said that the debating team from Sana'a University had in fact won the contest. The Lebanon University team was the runner-up. The Yemen Times extends its congratulations to the winning team.



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### Republic of Yemen

Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation

Economic Opportunity Fund (EOP)

Request of Expressions of Interest for due diligence exercise for

**Al-Awal Microfinance Bank.**

The Republic of Yemen, represented in the Ministry of Planning & International Cooperation has received a grant from IFAD, and co-finance from ISDB and EU for the Economic Opportunity Fund and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this grant to payments under the contract for carrying out due diligence exercise for Al-Awal Microfinance Bank.

The EOP now invites local eligible firm to indicate their interest in providing these services. Interested firm must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services through (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, general qualifications and number of key staff, and so forth. Selected firm will be a member or a representative of an international audit firm.

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the IFAD's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by IFAD Guidelines, dated September 2010.

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Head Of DND Portfolio Monitoring Unit:  
Projects Programming Sector -3rd Floor  
Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation ,  
P.O.Box:175,Sana'a  
Sana'a ,Republic of Yemen  
Pec+9671239730

E-mail: info@yali.org, info@yali.org

The deadline for applications is January 4, 2011, 3:00 PM, from the date of the announcement.



# Qatari Embassy Celebrates National Day

The Qatari embassy in Sana'a celebrated the national day in Sana'a in a festive event on Dec. 18th.

The celebration was attended by a number of important figures, diplomats, businessmen and journalists.

Qatari ambassador to Yemen Jassem Abdulaziz Al-Boaneen said in his welcoming speech that he is proud at the development of Qatar across the years.

"We have come a far way and this is under the leadership of his Excellency Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani prince of the country," said the ambassador.

He also praised the excellent relations between Yemen and Qatar and the increasing partnerships between the two countries.



## Republic of Yemen Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation Vacancies Announcement

The Government of Yemen, represented by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC), has received financing from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and several co-financiers for the Economic Opportunities Programme (EOP). The Programme aims to improve the economic status of rural women and men through the creation of sustainable private sector-led economic opportunities. The EOP, as well as several future investments, will be managed by a new Economic Opportunities Fund (EOF) which is created as a public-private partnership. It is expected that the EOF will manage investments valued in the range of USD 150 million over the next six years. MOPIC now seeks qualified Yemeni candidates for the key professional positions of the EOF as outlined below.

### Executive Director

#### Key responsibilities:

- ♦ developing the EOF's vision, mission and strategic framework;
- ♦ leading and managing the EOF, and formulating its operational guidelines;
- ♦ planning, guiding and monitoring the EOF's investments and implementation;
- ♦ overseeing the EOF's financial management, procurement and contracting;
- ♦ reporting to the EOF's Board, liaising with financiers, and mobilising funds from investors.

#### Required qualifications:

- ♦ academic qualifications in business management, finance, economics, or a related subject;
- ♦ a minimum of 10 years of experience at managerial level with at least 7 years in the private sector;
- ♦ outstanding and demonstrated strategic, analytical, innovation and negotiation skills;
- ♦ proficiency in written and spoken English, and competency in computer applications.

### Financial Manager

#### Key responsibilities:

- ♦ assuming responsibility for the EOF's financial management;
- ♦ developing the EOF's accounting systems and commissioning appropriate IT solutions;
- ♦ managing the EOF's accounts and overseeing all financial transactions;
- ♦ producing the EOF's financial statements and periodical financial reports;
- ♦ coordinating independent audit processes.

#### Required qualifications:

- ♦ academic qualifications in financial management, accounting, or a related subject;
- ♦ a minimum of 7 years of progressively responsible, relevant private sector experience;
- ♦ familiarity with international, national and project financial procedures;
- ♦ proficiency in written and spoken English; competency in relevant computer applications.

### Procurement Manager

#### Key responsibilities:

- ♦ assuming responsibility for the EOF's procurement and contracting activities;

- ♦ drafting model tender documents and contracts, and preparing procurement plans;
- ♦ executing the procurement of civil works, goods and services;
- ♦ negotiating and developing contracts with service providers, contractors and suppliers;
- ♦ ensuring compliance with national and financiers' procurement and contracting guidelines.

#### Required qualifications:

- ♦ academic qualifications in law, business management, economics, or a related subject;
- ♦ a minimum of 5 years of relevant experience in projects or the private sector;
- ♦ familiarity with national and project procurement and contracting procedures;
- ♦ proficiency in written and spoken English; competency in relevant computer applications.

### Monitoring & Evaluation Officer

#### Key responsibilities:

- ♦ assuming responsibility for the EOF's monitoring, evaluation, and impact assessment;
- ♦ analysing data and monitoring the progress and performance of the EOF's activities;
- ♦ assessing the financial, economic and social effects and impact of the EOF's investments;
- ♦ analysing the business environment and identifying potential investment opportunities;
- ♦ preparing periodical progress reports and impact assessment reports.

#### Required qualifications:

- ♦ academic qualifications in business management, economics, statistics, or a related field;
- ♦ a minimum of 5 years of experience in investment appraisal or economic analysis;
- ♦ ability to identify economic opportunities, monitor progress and measure impact;
- ♦ proficiency in written and spoken English; competency in relevant computer applications.

### Rural Finance Manager

#### Key responsibilities:

- ♦ assuming responsibility for the EOF's investments in the range of rural financial services;
- ♦ guiding the EOF's investments in microfinance institutions and capacity building support;
- ♦ developing the modalities for the EOF's venture capital and equity financing instruments;
- ♦ formulating other EOF investments in financial services (insurance, debt finance, LLCs, etc)
- ♦ preparing periodical analytical reports on the EOF's rural finance performance.

#### Required qualifications:

- ♦ academic qualifications in banking, finance, economics or a related subject;
- ♦ a minimum of 5 years experience in a microfinance institution, bank or equity fund;
- ♦ knowledge of microfinance best practices and financial products and services;
- ♦ proficiency in written and spoken English; competency in relevant computer applications.

### Value Chain Manager

#### Key responsibilities:

- ♦ assuming responsibility for the EOF's investments in upgrading selected value chains;
- ♦ capacity-building of all value chain actors from input supply to domestic/export marketing;
- ♦ organising the selection of participating processors/exporters and supply chain managers;
- ♦ organising the development of producers' associations and promoting forward contracting;
- ♦ guiding the EOF's investments in classification, certification and quality control of output.

#### Required qualifications:

- ♦ academic qualifications in business management, marketing, economics or a related field;
- ♦ a minimum of 5 years experience in private sector supply chain management/marketing;
- ♦ demonstrated ability to build capacities and forge linkages among value chain actors;
- ♦ proficiency in written and spoken English; competency in relevant computer applications.

### Lead Design Engineer

#### Key responsibilities:

- ♦ assuming responsibility for the EOF's investments in infrastructure development;
- ♦ assessing infrastructure needs and priorities across the EOF's selected value chains;
- ♦ organising the technical, financial, environmental and social assessment at selected sites;
- ♦ organising the design, construction, supervision and quality control of civil works;
- ♦ participating in procurement/contracting of designers, contractors and service providers.

#### Required qualifications:

- ♦ academic qualifications in civil engineering or a related subject;
- ♦ a minimum of 5 years of experience in managing infrastructure development;
- ♦ knowledge of modern irrigation systems as well as social and economic infrastructure;
- ♦ proficiency in written and spoken English; competency in relevant computer applications.

### General Information

The recruitment process will be based on open competition and equal opportunity for women and men applicants. Only short-listed candidates will be informed and invited for detailed interviews.

Interested candidates should submit their applications, consisting of a cover letter and curriculum vitae (CV), to the following email address:

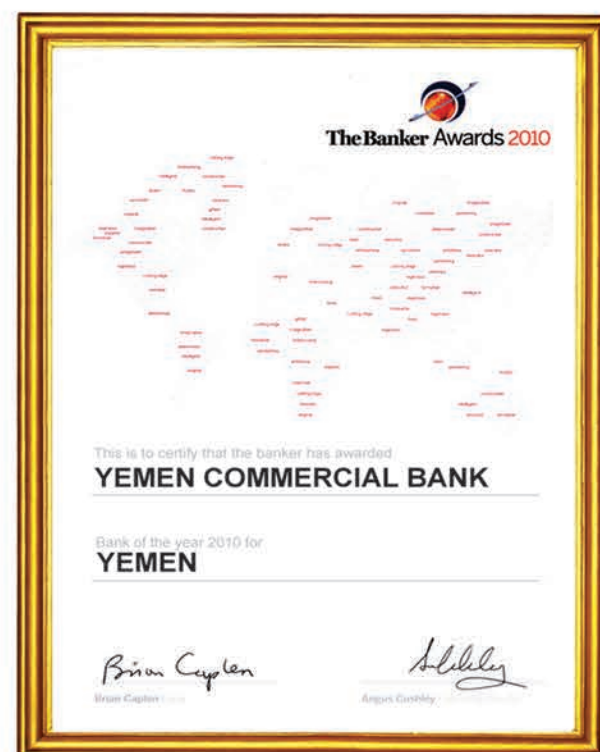
Head Of IFAD Portfolio Monitoring Unit  
Projects Programming Sector -3rd Floor.  
Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation .  
P.O.Box:175,Sana'a  
Sana'a ,Republic of Yemen  
Fax: +9671239710  
E-mail: ifadumpic@gmail.com, mopic\_ifad@yahoo.com

The deadline for applications is **January 6, 2011, 3:00 PM**, from the date of the Announcement.



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# Profound returns for volunteering in Yemen

Yemen is a developing country that has attracted aid agencies from around the world that have opened offices in the country. There are countless stories of volunteers from various countries who have found their way to the capital Sana'a but also to more remote areas. Below are two personal stories of volunteers from the United Nations Volunteers program.

## Volunteering on a remote island



Volunteer Bohdana Rambouskova and Abdo Ahmed, a local fisherman who is in charge of managing an eco-campsite for tourists in Amak, Soqatra, met through the UNV program in November 2010.

By: Bohdana Rambouskova

The reason why I decided to leave my well paid job and start working as a volunteer was that I finally wanted to make myself useful. As a news editor of a foreign affairs column, I was supplying readers with depressing news about tragedies and wrongdoings from all around the world. My subsequent years in advertising gave me the impression that my work was fun, but people would have had more pleasant lives without it. I therefore applied for a UNV position.

I was lucky enough to get a job as UNV Communications Officer with the UNDP Socotra Governance and Biodiversity Project. It meant, however, being stationed outside the UNDP team buildings and having an office in a distant outpost of the Ministry of Water and Environment. But as a project staff member, I have a great advantage – escaping from an administration building and being closer to beneficiaries, to the people I actually came to help.

My work on Soqatra, a remote Yemeni island deep in the Arabian Sea, has brought many challenges. Upon arrival, we found the island idle since the previous UNDP project finished about a year ago. We had to tackle local people's expectations that everything would become as it had been

before in terms of the number of jobs and salary scales our project would offer. Our new project, however, was designed in a completely different way.

Before anything else, I had to persuade my Soqotri counterparts that I was really able to bring their island some benefits. I kept hearing about the many international people who came and did nothing for big money.

Therefore I was happy for all the tough meetings I had held with the most difficult clients from global business during my advertising career. I started harvesting the fruit of my years spent in the commercial sector for the Soqotri people, and was glad that I entered the UN system with previous work experience which is very much needed.

But there was one more challenge to be faced. In the traditional Muslim society of Soqatra, my status was somehow unclear. Even though I cover my head and body in a proper way, I don't belong among the local women. I spend most of my days in the public sphere among men, working with them and eating with them outside. In Soqatra, my conduct spans common perceptions of femininity and masculinity. And while it is quite easy for me to enter the men's world, the women's world was kept separate from me. This separation was literal, by a high

stone wall or, at the least, the thin fabric of a face veil.

That finally changed after I opened my free afternoon English classes for girls and women. Most were motivated only to see my house from the inside and dropped out after the first class. Now there are only seven regular attendees. But word of mouth is very strong on Soqatra, and all the female population of Hadibo knows that the "farangia" (foreign woman) teaches English. Now, I have been invited to many houses even though their inhabitants do not attend my classes. They teach me cooking, show me their jewels and we make henna decorations. I have been accepted.

And that is my greatest achievement so far: reaching the whole of Soqotri society, not only part of it. I scaled the wall into the private sphere of Soqotri women and I have been learning to communicate and get close to them. And the local women very soundly influence the ways to conserve or destroy biodiversity.

On Soqatra, volunteering does not finish with the working hours. I stay a volunteer 24 hours a day, representing Western society and UNV values, approaches and rules. That is a new experience that my previous jobs did not teach me. I have been learning to become a public person in a private sphere.

## 'Volunteering is a priceless chance to learn from others'

By: Martha Kow-Donkor

When I was selected to serve as a UNV Associate Field Officer with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Yemen in June 2008, I was very anxious. But I was also filled with enthusiasm to be working in a different social and cultural context compared to Liberia, my country of origin.

In Liberia, I worked with different international NGOs as well as with UNHCR where the concept of UN volunteerism was well-known. There were national and international volunteers working with UNHCR, other UN agencies and the UN Peacekeeping Mission in Liberia. Listening and participating in UNV programs enforced my interest in volunteerism.

I was encouraged in my assignment in Yemen by the core idea that volunteering makes important economic and social contributions, including towards a more cohesive society by building trust and reciprocity among citizens. It can be both challenging and rewarding and requires that you transfer your skills to a new context. Over all, volunteering is a free choice.

Yemen is a country faced with many challenges, including internal conflicts, piracy, terrorism and extreme poverty. Recent conflict in the north resulted in a massive displacement of the population, loss of lives and livelihoods, as well as mass destruction of homes and infrastructure. Humanitarian access to the affected population is at times limited due to the presence of armed groups, illegal tribal checkpoints and landmines.

My first assignment in Yemen was to manage the UNHCR Field Office in Sa'ada, in northern Yemen for six months, overseeing the IDP operation. The work was enjoyable, yet challenging in terms of accessing those in real need. I learned of, and experienced, a different culture, and enjoyed working with my Yemeni colleagues as well as interacting with humanitarian work-



Although internally displaced due to the conflict in northern Yemen, this man (left) was still able to smile upon receiving a package of non-food items from volunteer Martha Kow-Donkor from Liberia.

ers from different agencies, nationalities and backgrounds. As the conflict deteriorated, movement within Sa'ada became more and more restricted for security reasons. In order to continue delivering protection and assistance to the internally displaced persons, we established a remote management mechanism through local NGOs.

My second assignment was in Amran, Yemen's northern region that was affected by the conflict and displacement, and also experienced the challenge of influential tribalism. The main task of the team I was part of was to ensure safe access for IDPs to overall protection and basic services including water, food, health care and shelter. Many were the challenges we had to face daily to achieve our goals, including illegal tribal checkpoints, hijacking of relief convoys and the unwillingness of some host communities to accommodate IDPs. Despite all these challenges, we were able to assist those people in need and to work with communities through the joint efforts of other partners and community participation.

As I became familiar with the IDP operation in Yemen coupled with my leadership skills, I was recently assigned to coordinate the Camp Coordination and Camp Management/Emergency Shelter/Non-Food Item Cluster in Yemen. This work involves ensuring that there are no gaps in the overall humanitarian response to IDPs through a collaborative leadership approach.

In general, I am very enthusiastic about my work as a volunteer. It is a priceless chance to learn from others and to share experiences both as a volunteer and as part of the UNHCR family. Being a volunteer helped to enhance my skills and has given me the courage to continue to volunteer and endure any challenges and difficulties that I may encounter. I was given the chance to develop as a professional, including through being trained in Camp Coordination, Camp Management and Emergency Shelter Coordination. Further, I have acquired basic skills in Arabic, which I never dreamed of learning given my main interest in learning French.

### What is the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) program?

It is the UN organization that contributes to peace and development through volunteerism worldwide. It was established in 1970 by the UN General Assembly. It is based in Bonn, Germany, and is active in 140 countries. It is represented worldwide through the offices of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and reports to the UNDP's executive board.

It directly mobilizes more than 7,500 volunteers nationally and internationally every year. More than 75 percent of UN volunteers come from developing countries and more than 30 percent volunteer within their own countries.

The UNV program in Yemen was established in 1971 to meet the country's need of enhancing national capacity, as well as to provide technical assistance in different fields. The national UN Volunteers scheme was established in May 2001 to promote the

concept of volunteerism and the use of national know-how and experience to contribute to the development of Yemen.

There were 53 UN Volunteers serving in Yemen last year. There are currently 15 national UN Volunteers and 21 international UN Volunteers in Yemen.

### How can a Yemeni become part of the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) program?

Qualified Yemenis who register to be international UN Volunteers will be sent abroad to work for UN agencies, while national UN Volunteers are based at UN agencies working within Yemen.

There are two ways for people to become UN Volunteers. To become an international UN program volunteer you should have the following values and commitment, and possess the following professional qualifications:

- Strong commitment to the values and

principles of volunteerism;

- Ability to work in a multi-cultural environment;
- Ability to adjust to difficult living conditions;
- Strong interpersonal and organizational skills;
- Prior volunteering and/or working experience in a developing country is an asset.

### Professional qualifications:

- A university degree or higher technical diploma;
- Several years of relevant working experience (2-5 years);
- Be at least 25 when taking up an assignment (there is no upper age limit);
- Good working knowledge in at least one of the three UNV working languages: English, French or Spanish.

To register online: <http://www.unv.org/how-to-volunteer.html>

## Stories from Real Life

By: Nawal Zaid  
For the Yemen Times

## Yemeni men and their complexes about educated women

### I'd rather have married an educated woman

Najeeb Ghaleb is a 55 year old Yemeni man who works in the private sector. Najeeb is a highly educated man who lived most of his life in the USA. He married quite late because he was too busy working and pursuing his career.

When he returned to Yemen, Najeeb got to know a female writer. He liked her spirit and active public involvement in society. But when he considered marriage he decided he would rather marry a less vocal woman. He preferred someone he would be able to control and pay a lower dowry for.

In Yemen, rural women know less about their rights and are more submissive. Najeeb eventually married an uneducated woman from the countryside and brought her to the city to live with him.

As time went by, Najeeb started to realize how the difference in education really mattered – but his wife had already become pregnant with his child. Now Najeeb leads a life where his liberal background and education is juxtaposed by the fact that his wife needs him for the simplest of things, for example, changing the gas cylinder in the kitchen.

Sometimes Najeeb reflects on his past and how his life would have been different if he had married an educated woman. While he is now with his wife and unborn child, he still doubts whether the woman he lives with will be able to become the mother of the children he had dreamed of.

### Beauty with no brains

Rashed is a 30 year old government employee. He is married and has one son. Rashed only

received a basic education and never thought that marrying a woman with a higher education than his might be a problem. His wife Sabah graduated from high school and loves to read.

When Sabah began to show her knowledge at home by initiating intellectual discussions about books she had read or things she had seen on TV, Rashed became more and more annoyed and aggressive. He felt cornered and believed that his wife was showing off to make him feel small. Every time he saw her reading he would snatch the book from her hands and tear it to pieces.

Rashed started to demand unreasonable things from Sabah and prevented her from having a social life of her own. After only three years he divorced her. Sabah was shocked as she had not seen it coming. She had believed she could sort out their conjugal problems, but was proven wrong.

After the divorce Rashed looked for a new wife. This time he wanted an uneducated woman who would not even know how to read or write. He felt that this way he could redeem his "manhood" and his image, if only to himself. He was looking for a beautiful woman to make his former wife jealous.

Very soon Rashed got married to Najwa, a beautiful 19 year old woman who had no education at all. She cleans and cooks, but also spends hours taking care of herself. Najwa is obsessed with her beauty and feels superior to the rest of the family because of her looks.

Since Najwa cannot read or write, she has nothing better to do than gossip and show off in front of the rest of the family. She is particularly proud that her husband has chosen her of all women – and that she has taken the place of a wife Rashed did not like.

Rashed knows that his wife is giving his family and relatives a tough time.

But to him, Najwa is everything he ever wanted. And for him that is more than enough.

### Matching intellect

Mansour is 40 years old and has four children. He is a government employee who has two wives.

In the rural area that Mansour comes from, women are generally promised to their cousins from an early age. Mansour was no exception. And although he had travelled to the city and completed his education, he returned to the village and married his uneducated cousin when the time came.

Mansour tried to get his wife interested in learning and improving her education. But she resisted and was satisfied with her uneducated self. She regarded improving her education as too much of an effort and said she

could do without it.

After a long time Mansour decided he wanted a wife who is also a companion and not just someone to prepare his meals. So he thought about divorcing his cousin and marrying a woman he had met at work.

Mansour had fallen in love with his colleague Sumaya after many conversations with her. He admired her breadth of mind and her way of thinking. Being in love, he thought about marrying her. But at the same time, Mansour did not want to divorce his cousin because he felt it was not her fault.

Mansour finally stayed with his cousin, but also took Sumaya as his second wife. Sumaya agreed to this because she, too, had fallen in love with him. Moreover, she felt sorry for Mansour's two children from his first wife.

Sumaya has now had two children with Mansour and they are living a happy life together.



# Kidnapping for Security: Localized Perspectives on Yemen's Instability

By: Saleem Haddad  
Muftah.Org

A few years ago, a Chinese engineer was kidnapped as he drove along the main road linking Yemen's two major cities, Sana'a and Aden. After some investigation, it turned out that the kidnappers had come from a bee-keeping tribe. Unknown to most, Yemen is famous for its honey. A few weeks prior to this incident, the police had raided the tribe's village and had damaged a number of bee-hives, which were the tribe's only source of livelihood. The tribesmen were not compensated for these damages, and deciding to draw attention to their grievance the only way they knew how, they kidnapped the next foreigner they could find on the main road.

In much of the international coverage on Yemen, the reasons for such kidnappings are rarely put into context. Like Somali piracy, a phenomenon that was borne from an existing need to protect livelihoods, fisheries and economic security off the coast of Somalia, much of the violence in Yemen can be attributed to deeper levels of political, social and economic insecurity, which are ultimately problems of governance at the local and national levels.

The story of the Chinese engineer highlights the various levels of insecurity facing Yemen's population: economic insecurity resulting from the growing difficulty of maintaining a sustainable livelihood in a resource-poor country; physical insecurity precipitating from attacks by either government or tribal forces, in a country facing calls for secession in the south and a rebellion in the north; and political insecurity stemming from a weak rule of law and the lack of effective security mechanisms, which has left many tribes with few reliable channels through which to address their grievances.

## Situating Security: the Local Factors Contributing to Yemen's Instability

Following the recent attempted terrorist plots allegedly originating inside Yemen, the spotlight has returned to this economically-disadvantaged country in the southern Arabian peninsula. Though the results of the increased attention and foreign aid have only recently begun to trickle down, concerns have arisen inside Yemen with the international community's approach

and its failure to address the root causes behind the country's complex security problems.

For instance, Yemen is notorious for its heavily armed population. Statistics show that there are over 60 million firearms in Yemen, an average of three firearms for every Yemeni citizen, putting the country second only to the United States in the number of arms per person. Yemeni authorities have, in the past few years, undertaken sporadic operations to confiscate illegal weaponry carried by citizens, with at least 150,000 weapons seized as of January 2010.

With such large numbers of small arms, government crackdown on weapons, along with the recent imposition of tough new restrictions on arms dealers, have only pushed the weapons trade underground.

"In the past, various types of small and medium-sized weapons were sold openly in arms markets," Tawfiq Haddash, a Defense Ministry official, explains. "Nowadays, arms dealers open their shops with no weapons on display, but take buyers to their homes to sell arms and ammunition in secret deals."

Yemen's armed population and reputation for kidnapping is simply explained as a cultural phenomenon: a sign of masculinity and power that is more symbolic than practical. While this may be true, reducing these issues to 'cultural' phenomena overlooks the practical reasons for their existence. Dr. Abdul Baqi Shamsan, a professor of Sociology at the University of Sana'a, believes that these cultural trends are symptomatic of the increasing insecurity felt by Yemen's tribal population. In the absence of trust in the central government, weapons and kidnapping are used to pressure authorities to address the economic needs of areas that are routinely neglected.

The historical roots of this insecurity can be traced back to the establishment of the modern Yemeni state. The traditional checks and balances that held the tribes together were never effectively translated into the modern state's institutions. As a result, tribal mechanisms for political and economic decision-making were slowly and systematically disempowered at the hands of an unaccountable central government. Replacing this traditional system was a governing regime, which exercised little accountability or oversight over its political and economic decisions and

which regularly 'bribed' Yemen's tribal leaders in return for their political support and agreement to eschew leadership roles in the economic and political arenas.

## Undermining the Tribal System: Government Patronage and the Break Down of Law and Order

Many analysts have described Yemeni President Ali Abdallah Saleh's patronage systems as 'dancing on the heads of snakes'—a striking image in a country whose water and oil resources are fast running out and where conflicts over land claim thousands of lives a year.[1] The shift from traditional tribal leadership (sheikhs) to a patronage-based republican political system has led to the co-opting of many sheikhs, who have been drawn away from their homelands and awarded with tremendous wealth.

Predictably, as a result of the breakdown of tribal leadership, customary norms that once played a role in regulating conflict in the tribal areas of Yemen have weakened, while the more troubling norms supporting revenge and blood feuds have remained. [2] These transformations have led to what some tribal leaders have called a new 'customary law' consisting of practices that are foreign to, but confused with, tribal traditions. These new practices have included revenge killings, the blocking of roads and kidnappings.

Where tribal codes and structures are breaking down, there is an increasing gap in the provision of law and order. Central government institutions, in particular the judiciary, are neither strong enough to bridge this gap nor trusted to do so. The risk is that, as this trend continues, law and order in the country will completely unravel.

As such, most Yemenis find themselves stuck between a corrupt government, which has centralized political and economic power in the hands of a small elite and traditional tribal mechanisms of law and order that are slowly deteriorating. The youth are particularly susceptible to alienation and according to a number of reports, including USAID-funded field research, economic, social and political dissatisfaction, rather than sectarianism or hatred of the West are driving forces behind increasing radicalization in the country.

## Taking a Holistic Approach: It's Not All About Terrorism

For these reasons, researchers warn of the dangers of looking at Yemen's problems exclusively through the lens of terrorism; when brought down to the local level, it becomes clear that Yemen's problems have more to do with socio-economic factors than terrorism. A recent report by Chatham House entitled 'Yemen: Fear of Failure', argues that a more holistic approach, which takes into account the population's economic and political problems, needs to be considered if the country's security issues are to be effectively addressed.

At the same time, security is not only important for its own sake, but rather is also crucial for creating conditions in which wider development efforts can be sustained. Understanding the root causes of 'insecurity' needs to go beyond simply diagnosing the symptoms. When broken down to its essential roots, security involves the ability to sustain a tribe's beehives as a source of income, the means to ensure these beehives are protected from destruction and vandalism and the existence of clear mechanisms through which grievances and compensation for destroyed beehives can be dealt. In the absence of these mechanisms, tribes will continue to fall back on the methods that work best and allow them to survive, like arms trading and kidnapping Chinese engineers.

\*Saleem Haddad is editor of Muftah's Yemen page

# International approaches to Yemen: Departing from a security-centered view

By: Yazan Al-Saadi

Recent Al-Qaeda-related events out of Yemen have once again put security and counter-terrorism concerns at the forefront of Western strategies towards the country. On the ground, this has involved a heavy focus on intelligence and security at the expense of the slow-burning socio-economic and political challenges that Yemen is facing. While tackling Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) is an important part of an effective strategy in the country, if this remains at the forefront of engagement then outside involvement in Yemen is likely to create more harm than good. To bring true stability to the country, there needs to be a radical shift in policy away from the prism of security, which channels funds to an unpopular Yemeni government and supports a centralized political power structure that has proved incapable of effectively governing the country.

## The Gradual Security Implosion: Domestic Factors

Since 1998, approximately 30 Yemenis have been killed in suicide and other terrorist attacks, excluding military personnel and the attackers themselves. In comparison, hundreds, even thousands of Yemenis have died in country's two long-standing internal conflicts: the Houthi rebellion in the north and the secessionist movement in the south.

In addition to the destabilising effects of these on-going conflicts, Yemen is faced with a crippling socio-economic situation. As the poorest country in the Middle East with a youth population of almost 50%, Yemenis on average earn less than \$2 per day, with unemployment hovering around 40%. According to estimates, the country's oil resources, which account for 90% of Yemen's export earnings, will be depleted by 2018.

Yemen is also experiencing massive water shortages caused by high domestic consumption, corruption (which has entrenched itself in all sectors of society), inadequate delivery of services, irresponsible governance and a patronage system created by the regime of President Ali Abdallah Saleh to maintain control over the country's tribal leaders. These problems are compounded by routine food shortages and decreasing land resources that spark major disputes, commonly understood as the single leading cause of violence in the country. In addition, because of its location, Yemen is confronted with a growing wave of refugees from East Africa (specifically refugees escaping the chaos in Somalia). The country is also attracting various "shadow networks", ranging from smugglers of contraband to flourishing and lucrative black-markets in armaments to a confident and successful piracy industry along the Gulf of Aden. These networks, which stretch from Eastern Africa to the lower end of the Arabian Peninsula, are flourishing in Yemen, in an environment in which governmental legitimacy is absent and law and order nonexistent.

Much of the ongoing violence in the country is a result of the increasing centralisation of power in the hands of the President and his patronage networks. Yemeni society had been, and still is, governed by

various tribes – who were and are strongly influential, yet informal, sources for local decision-making. Indeed, most successful conflict-resolution mechanisms have traditionally occurred within the framework of tribal councils and other informal networks. To undermine these dispersed power centres, the Saleh regime is relying on a "divide-and-rule" policy that plays off the various tribes, religious sects and even regional political players, in order to maintain legitimacy and ensure its continued rule. Corruption is on the increase, fuelled by a patronage network that favours tribes and family members of the government's political and military elite. To ensure the regime's survival, this patronage system goes beyond simply providing money, rewarding government supporters with increased water allocation, political representation and even public sector, business, and military jobs.

## Western Security Interests and Support for President Saleh

In several recent international conferences on Yemen, such as the Yemen Security Conference in London in January 2010 and the Chatham House conference on Yemen in November 2010, discussion has invariably centred around a paradigm of security and counter-terrorism, an approach welcomed by the Saleh regime as a means of securing continued support and funding for its increasingly unpopular rule. In particular, much of the recent policy debates have centred on the question of 'to drone or not to drone', exploring the effectiveness of drone strikes in tackling Yemen's security problems. Approaching the country through a counter-terrorism lens, Western governments have increased military action in Yemen, through a variety of drone strikes, cruiser missile strikes, joint clandestine operations between Yemen and Western, particularly American, military forces, and a tightening of intelligence sharing between Yemen and Western countries.

These activities have created a backlash within the Yemeni population. Civilian deaths from drone strikes have outraged a population that has historically been resistant to foreign, particularly Western, intervention. In addition, the channelling of international aid and support to the unpopular Yemeni government has increased popular disillusionment with the regime, whose security and counter-terrorism measures have historically been viewed as oppressive and detrimental to the democratic institutions of the country. The Yemeni government has acted in ways that seem to justify these impressions, hiding behind the veil of terrorism to crack down against actors that threaten its rule. Most recently, President Saleh has used the 'war on terror' as a means of eliminating his domestic rivals. Meanwhile, the government has blamed the rebellion in the north, in part, on Iran (even though no proof of such a connection exists) and has suggested that the secessionist movement in the historically Marxist south is linked with Al-Qaeda. According to Amnesty International, under the banner of "counter-terrorism", the Yemeni government has violated principles of human rights by engaging in practices such as torture, arbitrary arrests, unlawful killing and unfair trials, among other oppressive methods to maintain its control over

the country.

Public disillusionment with the government and security forces plays seamlessly into the hands of AQAP, which benefit from anti-regime sentiments. AQAP has exceedingly exploited this narrative of injustice in order to shore up its own legitimacy and generate support from the general population and various tribes. The organization's sophisticated public relations campaign has emphasized social injustice as a call to action. Indeed, a recent interview by Al Jazeera with Anwar Al-Awlaki – the U.S. born Yemeni religious scholar and alleged AQAP member whose importance in the organization remains debatable – captures this rhetoric. In this interview, Al-Awlaki stresses the notion of justice by highlighting American war crimes and the weakness of the Yemeni government. Al-Awlaki emphasizes that the Yemeni government is "selling its people" and "shamelessly" aiding the American military in the deaths of civilians.

## A Radical Shift in Policy

If Western concerns are to be met, intervention should be directed away from military action and security. A focus on strengthening the foundations of the state through soft pressure on the Saleh regime would have beneficial results for all concerned parties. Renewed focus on decentralisation and restoration of the traditional tribal power centres would re-establish the stake felt by ordinary Yemenis in the country's political and economic future, decrease the number of potential Al-Qaeda recruits and lessen local support for AQAP. This would mean investing in direct, grassroots counter-terrorism measures and curbing direct funding to the central government, which has demonstrated its tendency to misuse international aid. Funding local infrastructure projects and social services that ensure that local institutions have a say in economic and political decision-making would be a more effective means of driving support away from groups like AQAP.

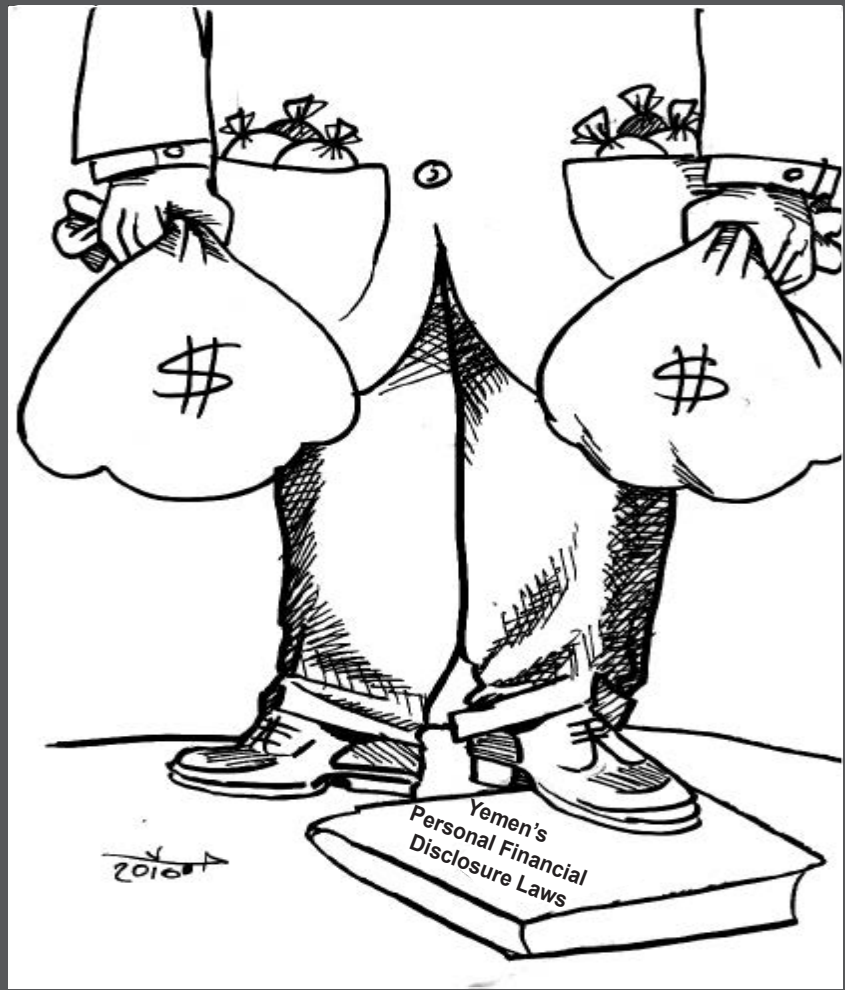
Most importantly, the international community must move away from exclusively security-oriented approaches, which have already failed in Afghanistan, Somalia, Pakistan and Iraq, and begin encouraging the central Yemeni government to work with local governorates to improve the country's infrastructure and improve the country's school and health care services. This new approach must also include a regional component, in which Yemen's neighbours are encouraged to play a positive role that is neither heavy handed nor aloof in its intervention.

Ultimately, a holistic approach is key. An exclusively security-oriented approach towards Yemen will only worsen an already fragile situation. The international community's policy-making must pay attention to the country's domestic problems as well. Failure to do so will only prolong the cycle of violence.

\*Yazan Al-Saadi holds a BA in Economics from Queen's University, Canada and a Masters of Arts in Globalization, Development, and International Law from the School of Oriental and African Studies, London. He is currently working as a journalist and local editor for an English-language newspaper in Kuwait.

## SKETCHED OPINION

By: Hamid



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# Souls possessed by demons find spiritual cures

**Demons can possess a person's body and spirit and it's not always easy to get rid of it. Demonic work has an Islamic response while psychologists offer opinions too. Personal stories reveal the dark side of demonic interference.**

By: Shatha Al-Harazi

Um Ahmad started to swear and shout loudly as a religious woman preached about death to the roomful of women. She talked of magic and conjuring tricks. Um Ahmad started to shout and swear at the sheikha, or female preacher. All the women knew at that point that she was cursed. Um Ahmad became twice as strong, as the demon took hold of her. Six women were required to get her out of the room.

Later that day the 50-year-old woman sat uncomfortably on the floor. The preacher came to her to read the Qur'an, to try and rid her of the possessive demon. But the woman again shouted loudly, crying and laughing at the same time. Once the preacher started reading Um Ahmad began swearing and spat on the women around her.

"She's had this demon inside her for more than 20 years now. We tried many ways to get it out but nothing worked. God be with her and take revenge on those who did this to her," said Um Ahmed's sister.

Her sister claimed that Um Ahmed's husband's second wife put a curse on her so that her husband would abandon her.

The sheikha gave her a small bottle of sacred oil, used when the Qur'an is read, and scent, claiming that this musk could cure anything, with Allah's will.

"Only one drop everyday on your uterus, and If Allah wants, it will heal you from any women's diseases," said the sheikha.

Demons: the religious point of view  
Yemenis believe that demons exist. It's common to hear that someone is suffering from the 'evil eye' or that a demon is haunting someone's body. There are different ways to get rid of it.

Most Muslims, who believe in the healing powers of the Qur'an, would consult a religious sheikh to read relevant verses of the Qur'an to cure them. They would also wash their bodies with water and sacred oil.

Abu Sami Al-Qadasi, a sheikh who uses the Qur'an as part of this healing process, has healed possessed people for more than 15 years. There are three types of Satanic work that can be healed by the Qur'an: magic, evil-eye and possessive demons.

Magic happens with human interference. A person would seek help from



Muslims believe that they can protect themselves from demons by avoiding sin, reading the Qur'an and praying regularly.

a shaman to harm someone else or to send a demon to possess them. The evil eye could be a human's or a demon's eye and it's when someone looks upon another with envy. To avoid this in Islam a person says 'masha Allah' which means 'God bless you' in Arabic.

Al-Qadasi says that the third type of Satanic work is possession. He says that this occurs when a demon haunts a person's body, without human interference, when a person unintentionally aggravates Satan.

Al-Qadasi says there are three reasons that demons possess people. Some are called by an evil spirit, which is why when people are fighting they may shout, "let Satan take you" to encourage a demon.

Others believe Satan is present in dirty places, so they pour hot water or put out cigarettes in the toilet bowl. Muslims have certain prayers before entering toilets to ask for Allah's protection from demons. Thirdly is love. When a demon falls in love with a human they will take over the person's body.

In Islam one can be protected from

demons by avoiding sins and regularly reading the Qur'an, also by saying certain verses and prayers for certain actions.

All demons can be healed by certain verses of the Qur'an, according to Al-Qadasi, as long as the patient has faith and believes in the power of the Qur'an. Verses call on Allah to protect people from demons, which craft, evil eye and evil spirits.

In Judaism, the second biggest religion in Yemen, there is no such beliefs about demons possessing humans, says Rabbi Yahya Yousuf from Sana'a.

"We believe that jinn (spirits) exist but they have their own world. It's not possible for them to interact with human beings," says Yousuf.

"We don't believe that words from the Torah can heal, as Muslims do with their Qur'an. My sister, who is in her 40s, has suffered from epilepsy since she was ten. Nothing works for her, but still we never thought of treating her by reading the holy book or any of these other ways. We take her for medical treatment and when she takes it, she gets better."

## Healing with the holy Qur'an

Some people can't differentiate between genuine spiritual treatment with verses from the Qur'an and shamans who sometimes claim to use the Qur'an. In Islam, the word shaman is associated only with dark magic that deals with Satan. Shamans in Yemen attract clients by pretending to use the Qur'an to heal them.

Ahlam Salem (not her real name), a 30-year-old university graduate, told the Yemen Times she sought help when she constantly felt exhausted for no reason.

Doctors were unable to find a scientific reason for her fatigue. Her mother then took her to a healer who used the Qur'an as a guide for spiritual treatment. This treatment is called 'Qethai'.

This healer, or 'moqathi', then gave Ahlam dry cotton wool to wipe all over her body. She had to return the used cotton to the healer.

The 'moqathi' then took the used cotton wool and, with prayer beads in his right hand, read some verses from the Qur'an and repeated some well known Islamic prayers. He then wound the prayer beads around the

cotton wool. Ahlam's cotton wool became colored with blood. In other cases stones or pieces of paper have been said to appear when this was done.

"I used to think it's all lies until I tried it myself. I immediately felt better," says Ahlam.

Al-Qadasi confirms that 'Qethai' is a practice of shamans.

"It is one of the shaman's ways to pretend that he is a Qur'anic healer. The patient watches and knows that no one changes the cotton-wool. But what he misses is that the shaman deals with demons and that demons change the cotton-wool," says Al-Qadasi.

He explains that anyone wanting to become a shaman has to repeatedly perform Satanic initiation rituals, such as stepping on the Qur'an, taking this holy book to the toilet, desecrating the Qur'an with menstrual blood and offering sacrifices to demons.

Shamans convince people with claims that they have supernatural powers and that they are experts in the occult and have the ability to communicate with spirits.

In Islam it's believed that each person has his own personal demon that

passes on evil thoughts and ideas. A Muslim has to resist and fight by disobeying their personal demon and being faithful to their religion.

"The shaman knows that unseen things happen to people by dealing with Satan. The devil transfers news to the shaman about the person they are attached to. So when a person goes to the shaman they will be surprised that he knows so much about him that no one else knows and is fooled by him," says Al-Qadasi.

According to the teachings of Islam's Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) those who go to a shaman, but repents afterwards, will not have their prayers accepted by Allah for 40 days. Those who go to a shaman and believe in his powers will be considered a non-believer. This is because Muslims should put their faith in Allah alone, not demons.

Al-Qadasi says that there are no official plans to open a Qur'an-based healing center in Yemen and that anyone can work as an unlicensed healer. This allows shamans to practice under the pretence of being a Qur'anic healer.

## Playing with the Devil

Sara, a university student, was approached by some friends to play with a home-made board game to made contact with spirits. Her friend wrote the Arabic alphabet on a sheet of paper and drew a circle. On one side of the circle she wrote 'YES' and on the other half 'NO'. They placed a coin on the paper and everyone in the group put their finger gently on the coin and started greeting the spirits.

After the greeting they asked if there were any spirits present and the coin started to move to the answer, moving from one letter to another. Sara thought the game was fun and wanted to try it herself. She couldn't believe she was really playing with spirits.

When she got back home her younger sister and best friend Amal didn't believe her, so she showed them the game. After locking her room door, to make sure no one could hear what they were doing, they started the game and had fun asking about their exam results and romantic interests.

But there was one question they later regretted. Sara's best friend asked, "Who loves me the most?" The spirits answered, "We do". She was scared but continued her questions with, "How come?" The answer was, "You are cute and lovely and no human being de-

serves you."

Then Sara's sister asked the same question. The reply was, "Yes we like you because you are nice and lovely".

Two years later Sara's best friend Amal got married. After two months of marriage she started to act strangely and violently. She hated her husband and used to wake up at night and run to her family's home in the mountain. One day she suddenly saw darkness for a minute and felt like she was falling from a mountain. She wanted to scream but had no voice.

"I was screaming loudly but no noise was coming out of my mouth. I knew I had lost my voice. My husband saw what happened. I was scared and cried the whole night," says Amal.

Amal went to many sheikhs and they all said that she was possessed by a demon and that someone who loved her had put a curse on her.

The demon spoke from her mouth as a reaction to certain verses from Qur'an and he used to say, "No human being deserves her, only we do".

"That's exactly what I remember being spelt out on the Ouija board that day at my friend's house," recalled Amal.

Amal said that she was still possessed by a demon but was getting help from a spiritual and religious leader.

### Psychological explanations for demonic possession

In medical circles there is no such thing as healing with holy books. It's believed that psychological healing is the answer.

"We as doctors don't deny that these spiritual things exist; demons, jinns, magic, it's mentioned in the Qur'an and we don't deny it at all. But as doctors we can't diagnose the disease as magic work or possession," says psychologist Dr. Abdullah Al-Shar'abi.

"I believe the Qur'an can make someone feel better, but that doesn't mean that it's a way to cure diseases. We believe these things happened in the days of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), but we are in a different time. Each time has its own ways and we believe in medicine now," says Al-Shar'abi.

"We are also wondering who these people are who heal with the Qur'an. Are they qualified enough or are they only using it as a way to earn money? They may make the situation worse."

In Yemen, lots of people go to Qur'an centers to cure epilepsy, a central nervous system disorder, as they believe it's a form of possession.

## Vacancy

A commercial company is looking to recruit a full time Commercial Correspondence Representative  
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Only candidates who have the above requirements are encourage to submit their CVs to the following e-mail address: info@sas4cs.com



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**(Indicating clearly the Position applied for on the Subject Line)**

**Applicants should be sympathetic to the values and principles of Islamic Relief**  
**Islamic Relief is an equal opportunities employer.**  
**Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.**



### Vacancy Announcement

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Programme invites Yemeni nationals to apply for the following volunteering position

**Post Title:** National Coordinator for International Year of Volunteerism (IYV) +10  
**Location:** Sana'a

**Responsibilities:**  
**Under the direct supervision of the UNV Programme Officer, the UNV volunteer will be required to perform the following duties:**

- Facilitate the creation of a National IYV +10 Committee;
- Initiate and participate in resource mobilisation efforts by developing an apz
- Liaise with national and international VIOs in-order to build national network and database with a catalogue covering all participating entities in the IYV +10 in Yemen;
- Support the implementation of IYV +10 overall communication strategy, monitoring activities, disseminating information and collecting good practices, volunteer stories and audiovisual materials;
- Extend capacity development assistance to strengthen the implementation of IYV +10 initiatives and results, through organising training and transfer good practices and successful initiatives;
- Act as Focal Point within UNDP CO for preparation and dissemination of IYV +10 promotional materials, extend support to national media for coverage for the volunteer related events and success stories;
- Organise data and information, prepare and maintain records, document and report on events implemented through the year;
- Undertake any other tasks within his/her competency as directed by the CO/ UNVHQs.

**Qualifications:**

- University Degree in social sciences and development-related fields;
- Minimum 3 years of previous job experience in development, coordination and resource mobilization
- Experience in working with volunteer programmes, NGOs, CSOs and VIOs
- Good Computer skills (MS office applications); as well as experience in internet, and internet socially based system (i.e. Facebook, Twitter and YouTube)
- Fluency in spoken and written English

Interested candidates are requested to send their cover letter and C.V. to  
**unvye.info@undp.org** Subject: National Coordinator IYV +10

National UN Volunteers are not paid a salary for their services. Instead, they are provided with a volunteer living allowance, \$ 800 per month in addition to hazard allowances.

**UNV is an equal opportunity organization and female candidates are encouraged to apply.**  
**Deadline for receiving applications is 03 January 2011.**



# Rural midwife and nurse training to improve women's health



This picture shows women being educated to qualify as nurses and midwives in rural areas.

Story and Photos by: Ali Saeed

**Z**aynab, 26, was a mother of three children living in a remote village in Al-Jawf governorate, 143 km northwest of the capital. She gave birth to her first two children in her village. She suffered severe pains during the deliveries and there was no midwives of medical assistants in the village to help her.

During her third delivery she suffered complications and spent three days bleeding and in terrible pain. In the end, her husband decided to take her to a hospital in the city. She was carried to the car in a critical condition.

The private hospital they were headed to was far away from the village and during the trip Zaynab's condition continued to worsen. When they arrived at the hospital the emergency doctor was able to deliver the baby, but Zaynab was close to death. Despite giving her vitamin injections, it was too late, and she passed away from acute hemorrhaging a few hours later.

Approximately 470 women per 100,000 live births die from obstetric complications according to the UNICEF. An estimated 82 percent of these deaths occur during delivery. Yemen's high maternal mortality rate is primarily due to a lack of skilled health care personnel for antenatal, delivery and postnatal care, according to Yemen's Ministry of Health.

To reduce the rate of maternal mortality and improve the overall health status of women, the Ministry of Health plans to focus on recruiting and training midwives, especially in rural and under-served areas.

Last Sunday, Dr Jamal Nasher, from the Higher Health Sciences Institute in Sana'a launched the second National Strategy 2011-2015 for Health Institutes. The strate-

gy aims to increase the number of qualified health workers to fill the need in the public and private medical sector.

There are between three and seven nurses and midwives for every 10,000 people in Yemen, according to the Deputy Minister of Public Health who attended the launch.

Dr. Taha Al-Mahbashi, vice dean of the institute and head of the quality assurance unit told the

Yemen Times that the institute works to attract students, both girls and boys, from rural areas to enroll at the institute. These students are trained to help reduce the maternal mortality rate among women and infants. He explained that 40 percent of educational health programs at the institute target reproductive health issues.

The administration of the institute, in cooperation with organizations such as USAID and the Social Fund for Development, scan areas of need in remote locations for potential female students to train as nurses or midwives. Health offices in governorates sometimes contribute by sending female and male candidates to the institute to study nursing, midwifery, or medical assistance.



There is still shortage of nurses and midwives in Yemen as there are only 3,7 nurses and midwives for every 10,000 persons in the country.

The institute houses male and female students in separate hostels where they are provided with food, beds and a monetary allowance.

"I was a doctor in rural areas for some time, and from my experience of working there I found that a midwife is the best actor who can provide healthcare for women during pregnancy and delivery," Dr. Rami Al-Maqtari, a doctor of public health who advocates for women's health in Yemen, told the Yemen Times.

"People in rural areas respect male doctors, but when it is a female health worker or a midwife they trust her more, and allow her to go into their house and analyze the case in detail," he said. Al-Maqtari thinks

that when the midwife is from the village itself, she will be more empowered to take decisions and provide health care for women.

The Higher Health Sciences Institutes are present in the capital Sana'a and in ten other governorates. All branches of the institute receive students from their local areas according to annual capacity and population needs. The institutes teach public health, midwifery, radiology, health statistics, nursing, lab technology, pharma-

cology and medical assistance.

Now the Ministry of Health has asked the administration of the institute to train 1,500 medical assistants for remote areas, including Al-Jawf and Raima governorates, according to Al-Mahbashi. Up until now, 120 midwives have graduated from the institute in six batches. Seham Othman, head of the midwifery department at the institute in Sana'a told the Yemen Times.

Midwives and female health workers in general are very important for community health, especially in rural and remote areas where access to health facilities are still very limited and medical personnel are lacking, according to Al-Maqtari. He also questioned whether there were adequate health facilities for health workers to practice in.

"Are health centers in rural areas ready and well prepared for health workers to practice their jobs professionally?" he asked.

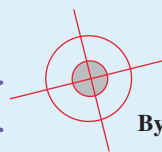
## Girls' education is central to health development

Dr. Al-Mahbashi noted that when they go to remote areas to look for female candidates to study any health specialization, they hardly find any girls who have completed their secondary school education, or sometimes even basic education.

"Because parents in rural areas do not allow their girls to continue their education, there are only a few girls with secondary or primary education," he said. Increasing female education in rural areas is an essential prerequisite to being able to attract educated girls for training in the health sector.

The institute is trying to increase the number of medical graduates it produces, but it lacks the financial capacity, according to Al-Mahbashi. "We are a public institution, and the budget for the institute has been reduced year after year," he said.

## HEALTH WATCH



By: Dr. Siva



This weekly column disseminates health information to readers in Yemen and beyond. Dr. Siva currently works at Aden Refinery Company Hospital. Lifestyle diseases and cancer prevention are his special interests. Complementary medicine and naturopathy are his passions.

## Alzheimer's disease

**L**ast weekend, I was surfing through the online edition The Boston Globe newspaper). An article 'Feeling him slipping away' caught my attention. It described how at 48, Bruce Vincent a shop owner in Westminster, is starting to forget things he has long known — how to stock shelves, how to make change at the cash register, how to read a digital clock etc. Just last year, Vincent was named businessman of the year in Central Massachusetts. Now his wife and three grown children are facing uncomfortable and agonizing situations which no family can cope with at his age. Is it safe for Bruce to drive? Should he stop working at his own store? Yes. Vincent suffers from early onset of Alzheimer's disease.

The Vincent family has been plagued by an especially cruel, inherited form of Alzheimer's disease that strikes at an early age. Bruce Vincent's mother, Theresa, was diagnosed as Alzheimer's at 43 and died about a decade later. Her father, George, made it to 59. George's father, Omer, also died young, at 56, with an unknown dementia (memory loss). Now, at 48, it is Bruce's turn to develop Alzheimers'. He's lost a lot already, but not his calm and courage.

A very touching story that made me feel gloomy and melancholic for hours. Most of us notice some sluggish thinking and occasional problems with remembering certain things as we age. However, serious memory loss, confusion and other major changes in the way our minds work may be a sign that brain cells are failing.

A progressive, fatal brain disease, Alzheimer's destroys brain cells, which ultimately devastates memory, behavior and thinking skills, causing the inability to carry out the simplest tasks of daily living. Although there are many forms of memory loss, Alzheimer's disease is the most common form and irreversible. Symptoms usually develop slowly and get worse over time, becoming severe enough to interfere with daily chores. Alzheimer's is not a normal part of aging, although the greatest known risk factor is increasing age, and the majority of people with Alzheimer's are 65 and older.

However, Alzheimer's is not just a disease of old age. Up to 5 percent of people with the disease have early-onset Alzheimer's (also known as younger-onset), which often appears when someone is in their 40s or 50s like Vincent.

Alzheimer's worsens over time. Alzheimer's is a continuing disease, where symptoms gradually worsen over a number of years. In its early stages, memory loss is mild, but with late-stage Alzheimer's, individuals lose the ability to carry on a conversation and respond to their environment. Alzheimer's is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States. Those with Alzheimer's live an average of eight years after their symptoms become noticeable to others, but survival can range from three to 20 years, depending on age and other health conditions.

Scientists have identified factors that increase the risk of Alzheimer's. The most important risk factors—age, family history and heredity—can't be changed, but emerging evidence suggests there may be other factors we can influence.

### Age

The greatest known risk factor for Alzheimer's is advancing age. Most individuals with the disease are 65 years or older. The likelihood of developing Alzheimer's doubles about every five years after age 65. After age 85, the risk reaches nearly 50 percent. One of the greatest mysteries of Alzheimer's disease is why risk rises so dramatically as we grow older.

### Family history

Another strong risk factor is family history. Those who have a parent, brother, sister or child with Alzheimer's are more likely to develop the disease. The risk increases if more than one family member has the illness. When diseases tend to run in families, either heredity (genetics) or environmental factors, or both, may play a role.

### Aluminum not a cause

During the 1960s and 1970s, aluminum emerged as a possible suspect in causing Alzheimer's disease. This suspicion led to concerns about everyday exposure to aluminum through sources such as cooking pots, foil, beverage cans, antacids and antiperspirants. Since then, studies have failed to confirm any role for aluminum in causing Alzheimer's. Almost all scientists today focus on other areas of research, and few experts believe that everyday sources of aluminum pose any threat.

### Genetics (Heredity)

Scientists know genes are involved in Alzheimer's. There are two types of genes that can play a role in affecting whether a person develops a disease—risk genes and deterministic genes. Alzheimer genes have been found in both categories.

### Other Factors

Experts believe that the majority of Alzheimer's disease occurs as a result of complex interactions among genes and other risk factors. Age, family history and heredity are all risk factors we can't change. Now, research is beginning to reveal clues about other risk factors we may be able to influence through general lifestyle and wellness choices and effective management of other health conditions.

Head injuries: There may be a strong link between serious head injury and future risk of Alzheimer's, especially when trauma occurs repeatedly or involves loss of consciousness. Protect your brain by buckling your seat belt and wearing your helmet when participating in sports. Keep your home clutter free especially when you've an elderly person living in the house who can easily trip and sustain head injuries.

Heart-head connection: Growing evidence links brain health to heart health. Your brain is nourished by one of your body's richest networks of blood vessels. Every heartbeat pumps about 20 to 25 percent of your blood to your head, where brain cells use at least 20 percent of the food and oxygen your blood carries.

The risk of developing Alzheimer's appears to be increased by many conditions that damage the heart or blood vessels. These include high blood pressure, heart disease, stroke, diabetes and high cholesterol. Studies suggest that stroke and diseases of brain's blood vessels can also cause Alzheimer symptoms.

General healthy aging: Overall healthy aging may help keep your brain as well as your body fit. These strategies may even offer some protection against developing Alzheimer's or related disorders. Try to keep your weight within recommended guidelines, avoid tobacco and excess alcohol, stay socially connected, and exercise both your body and mind.

(To be continued)

# Saving rare plants from extinction in Socotra

Story and Photos by: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

**A**deeb Hadeeb, 65, exploited his piece of land in Socotra to build arboretum to save rare Socotri plants from extinction. He has planted more than 20,000 saplings in the land although he has no regular income or any salary.

Yemen Times visited the arboretum where different plants and saplings distributed on the place that built in 1996.

Hadeeb made a plan to distribute the work between him and his family. "My son

Ahmed collects seeds and another son Abdullah makes a planning inside the garden," he told the Yemen Times.

The wife of Adeeb also share them the work by sowing the seeds in additional to his daughters who document the dates of sowing and growth to know the age of the plants, while Hadeeb supervises the work in additional to watering the plants.

The idea of the arboretum was implemented when agricultural expert from Ministry of Agriculture from Sana'a suggested Hadeeb to build the arboretum in order to preserve rare plants in the Island. "I realized that the idea needs a lot

of money to implement, but I started this project from my personal efforts," he said.

In the first year, Hadeeb planted about 30 kinds of plants that threatened with extinction and in 1998 he expanded the arboretum and built a fence to protect the arboretum.

"We lack financial support. I pay from my pocket to care the arboretum," he told the Yemen Times.

Adeeb was obtaining a 50,000 Riyal (USD 230) a month salary from the Ministry of Environment as a support for his arboretum but this support had stopped.

"I dream to expand and develop my arboretum to be like a big garden in which visitors can visit it and sit in but I have no support for that," he said.

The arboretum has developed and the plants have increased but the problem that the expenses have increased



Visitors from different governorates in Yemen praised a garden that Socatri resident Adeeb Hadeeb and called for Ministries of Agriculture and Environment to support this effort.

as well, according to Hadeeb.

"Socotra Island has generous sponsorship from different organizations and countries but this support doesn't go to real projects," he said.

He said that agricultural scientists can come to here to make researches about plants of Socotra, moreover, the arboretum distributes sapling freely for people in Socotra with the aim of creating awareness for them about the importance of preserving rare plants in Socotra.

"Some plants in the arboretum used for curing and several foreign experts told me that the arboretum needs laboratory to test the different plants," he said.

"If we don't preserve our plants they will be extinct and harmed," Hadeeb added.

The arboretum has 20,000 saplings, Dragon's Blood trees constitute the quarter of these saplings, according to Hadeeb.

"The arboretum is one of the distinguished places in Socotra. Adeeb has made a great job with his family," said a businessman Amin Dirhem who visited the place.

"Ministries of environment and agriculture should support this important arboretum," he added.

A businessman Abdullah Abdu Saeed visited the place also and highly praised it. "The arboretum is very important for the island. I hope investors and officials to care this place and provide it with necessary supplies and support to save internationally recognized plants from extinction," he said.

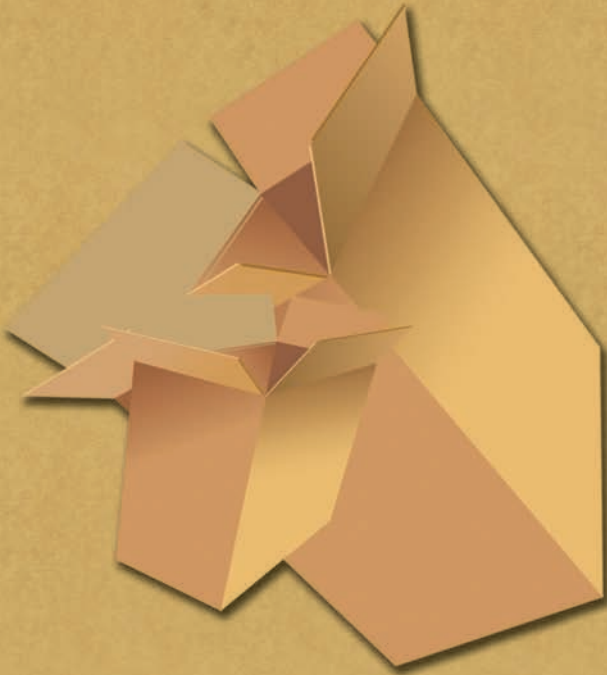


Adeeb Hadeeb works with his family to ensure that plants in Socotra don't die out.



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**Job Title:** Treasury Accountant  
**Department:** Finance  
**Reports to:** Cash Management Supervisor  
**Work Location:** Sana'a

Ref #: 305

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- Process local and international payments in SAP including initial review of payments issued by Treasury Accounting Assistant.
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- Managing check books and control the check stock of YER and USD currencies.
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- Act as an Assistant Custodian for Treasury's Petty Cash Fund.
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#### APPLICATION PROCESS

- 1 Visit Yemen LNG's website at WWW.YEMENLNG.COM).
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- 3 Register your personal and professional data in order to log in and apply.
- 4 Do not make duplicate applications by fax, etc.
- 5 Yemen LNG Company will contact the selected candidates for interview and further assessment.
- 6 Applicants who are not contacted have not been successful but can still apply for future positions.

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## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** invites **Yemeni Nationals** to apply for the following positions with **"The Economic Diversification Support Programme"**

**1- Post Title: National Socio-Economist**  
**Duration: one year renewable**  
**Duty Station: Sana'a**

### Responsibilities:

- Provide strategic and policy analysis support to the Coordination Support Secretariat for the formulation of Yemen's non-oil sector Development Strategy.
- Provide input and information based on socio-economic analysis, assist in the analysis of macroeconomic policy, and assist in updating the UNDP and MoPIC reports on macroeconomic policy, MDGs, and poverty reduction. Help in the production and update of macroeconomic indicators and their projections.
- Provide support and input for the production of annual and quarterly statistical bulletins on non-oil sectors.
- Provide support to the development, delivery and mainstreaming of specific policy instruments, services and advocacy tools into national development initiatives in support of non oil sectors.
- Help in the creation and maintenance of strategic partnerships, specifically on South-South cooperation, other international partners, and friends of Yemen in support of non oil sectors.
- Help in the formulation and the production of final drafts of documents and reports presented for the Ministers' Council for discussion, negotiation, approval, decision taking, and signature.
- Take initiatives and help in the integration of non-oil sectors into the national reform agenda, assist in highlighting inter-sectoral synergies and sectoral policies and activities that are overlapping or that of common interest and benefit to combined non-oil sectors.

### Qualification:

- Master's Degree or equivalent in Economics focusing on macroeconomics. Additional years of experience will be accepted in lieu of post graduate degree.
- At least 5 years of relevant practical experience in analyzing socio-economic data and information, macroeconomic analysis and formulation of policy, reports and publications, and presentation of data
- Experience in the usage of computers and office software packages and the handling of web based management systems
- Proven ability to work as part of multi-disciplinary teams
- Fluency (writing and oral communication) in English and the language of the duty station.
- Ability to communicate clearly and concisely in both Arabic and English

**2- Post Title: Communications Officer**  
**Duration: one year renewable**  
**Duty Station: Sana'a**

### Responsibilities:

- Develop and monitor a communications and public information strategy/plan for the Programme.
- Provide support to advocacy and awareness raising activities.
- Write press releases and articles about Programme activities for the national and international media.
- Edit Speeches, Produce and regularly update promotional materials including reports, brochures, folders, etc.
- Provide a final edit of all major annual publications.
- Assist with planning, publicizing, and carrying out special events, participate in and facilitate training and workshops as appropriate.
- Undertakes efficient contact management.
- Act as Communication Focal Point for Programme including management of press and other media inquiries.
- Development and maintenance of relations with counterparts and stakeholders, including media, civil society, donors etc.
- Networking with UNDP and other partners Communications Officers.
- Transfer skills to counterparts in planned and systematic fashion
- Perform other duties as required

### Qualification:

- Masters Degree in Journalism, Public Relations, Social Sciences or related field. Additional years of experience will be accepted in lieu of post graduate degree
- At least 5 years of relevant experience in public relations, advocacy and media relations.
- Demonstrated experience in writing articles and text for professional publications
- Experience working in a multi-cultural environment
- Experience with development issues would be an asset.
- Fluency in both written and spoken English and the national language of the duty station (Arabic).

**Only Online Applications will be accepted.**

Interested candidates are requested to apply online via our website at <http://jobs.undp.org/>. Response will only be made to short listed candidates.

The deadline for receiving applications is Monday, 10 January 2011.

UNDP is an equal opportunity organization and qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** invites **Yemeni Nationals** to apply for the following positions with **"The Local Governance Support Programme"**

**1- Post Title: Team Leader, Policy and Legal Development**  
**Duration: one year renewable**  
**Duty Station: Sana'a**

### Responsibilities:

- Continuous analysis of the needs in policy and legal development at the national level and preparation of inputs to the project's annual work plans
- Revisions and updates of the project's Results and Resources Framework (RRF) to ensure its consistency with the actual requirements and progress of the National Programme design and implementation
- Identification of issues and risks relating to policy and legal development and submission of timely and comprehensive proposals and recommendations to the LGSP management on how these issues should be addressed.
- Development of the Team's work plans and work packages for technical support to address the current requirements of policy and institutional development
- Identification of needs in technical expertise and designing of terms of reference and job descriptions for consultancies
- Design and conduct of various consultation and discussion events, workshops, seminars and forums in support of an inclusive policy and legal development agenda
- Continuous monitoring of the Team's progress against the plans, issues and risks and regular reporting to the National Project Manager and the Chief Technical Advisor
- Substantive inputs on policy and legal development to the project's regular and special reports
- Budget Planning and phasing, budget monitoring for the Policy and Legal Development component
- Support to the establishment of and continuous technical assistance to a Legal Reform Group to be created jointly by the Ministry of Legal Affairs and MoLA to ensure an enabling environment and passing of the proposed legal changes and new laws
- Agreement on rational division of labor with other relevant stakeholders based on analysis of policy and legal development requirements and efforts
- Development of proposals for joint programmatic planning and implementation with other relevant stakeholders, including joint funding for capacity building and capacity development programmes.
- Development of proposals to increase South-South cooperation (including twinning arrangements)
- Continuous technical support and advice provided to the Legal Reform Group, MoLA and relevant National Programme Management Body to identify and amend relevant articles of the Constitution and formulate new local government legislation to provide the legal framework for an effective and responsive local governance system
- Qualification:
- Master's Degree or equivalent in Law, Public Administration, International Relations, Political Sciences or related field with specialization in legal aspects of governance and public administration.
- 5 years of relevant experience at the national or international level in programmes targeting national or local government. Good knowledge of public administration and governance systems and relevant legislation in Yemen.
- Experience in legislation drafting for government.
- Fluency in both written and spoken English and Arabic required.

Approximate monthly salary is \$1,700

**2- Post Title: Team Leader, Institutional Development**  
**Duration: one year renewable**  
**Duty Station: Sana'a**

### Responsibilities:

- Continuous analysis of the needs in institutional development to support designing, implementation and monitoring of the National Programme and preparation of inputs to the project's annual work plans
- Regular revisions and updates of the project's Results and Resources Framework (RRF) to ensure its consistency with the actual requirements and progress of the National Programme design and implementation
- Identification of issues and risks relating to institutional development and submission of timely and comprehensive proposals and recommendations to the LGSP management on how these issues should be addressed.
- Development of the Team's work plans and work packages for technical support to address the current requirements of institutional development
- Identification of needs in technical expertise and designing of terms of reference and job descriptions for consultancies
- Design and conduct of capacity building and capacity development events, workshops, seminars and forums in support of a comprehensive institutional development agenda for the National Programme
- Continuous monitoring of the Team's progress against the plans, issues and risks and regular reporting to the National Project Manager and the Chief Technical Advisor
- Substantive inputs on institutional development to the project's regular and special reports
- Budget Planning and phasing, budget monitoring for the Institutional Development component
- Creation of mechanisms and development of practices building national ownership of activities and outputs to ensure sustainability of results
- Formalization of procedures, activation of and continuous support to the Local Governance Forum to mobilize and draw upon a wide spectrum of ideas/experience to inform the design and implementation of local governance reform; deepen dialogue on local governance in a systematic manner; and promote awareness and advocacy of the local governance agenda
- Agreement on rational division of labor with other relevant stakeholders based on analysis of institutional development requirements, resources and efforts
- Development of proposals for joint programmatic planning and implementation with other relevant stakeholders, including joint funding for capacity building and capacity development programmes.

### Qualification:

- Master's Degree or equivalent in Public Administration, International Relations, Political Science, Law or related field
- 5 years of relevant experience at the national or international level in programmes targeting national or local government in Yemen. Good knowledge of public administration and governance systems in Yemen.
- Fluency in both written and spoken English and Arabic required.

Approximate monthly salary is \$1,700

**3- Post Title: Team Leader, Local Development**  
**Duration: one year renewable**  
**Duty Station: Sana'a**

### Responsibilities:

- Continuous analysis of the needs in local development, including analysis to determine the state of local development in target localities and identify the capital and recurrent resource requirements for closing the local development gaps
- Support to designing, implementation and monitoring of local development aspects of the National Programme based on the analysis and preparation of inputs to the project's annual work plans
- Regular revisions and updates of the project's Results and Resources Framework (RRF) to ensure its consistency with the actual requirements and progress of the National Programme design and implementation
- Identification of issues and risks relating to local development and submission of timely and comprehensive proposals and recommendations to the LGSP management on how these issues should be addressed.
- Development of the Team's work plans and work packages for technical support to address the current requirements of institutional development
- Identification of needs in technical expertise and designing of terms of reference and job descriptions for consultancies
- Substantive inputs on local development to the project's regular and special reports
- Budget Planning and phasing, budget monitoring for the Policy and Legal Development component
- Support to the Local Governance Forum on local development issues to mobilize and draw upon a wide spectrum of ideas/experience to inform the design and implementation of local governance reform; deepen dialogue on local governance in a systematic manner; and promote awareness and advocacy of the local governance agenda
- Creation of partnerships with key government partners, local authorities, non-government organizations at the central and local levels, international stakeholders to ensure their engagement and relevant input in development and implementation of activities in support of local development

### Qualification:

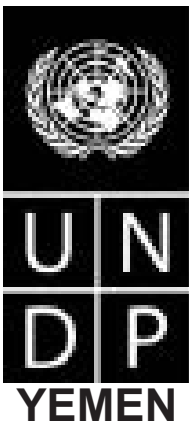
- Master's Degree or equivalent in Development, Public Administration, Law or related field
- 5 years of relevant experience at the national or international level in programmes working with national or local government on local development issues in Yemen.
- Good knowledge of public administration and governance systems at the local level in Yemen
- Fluency in both written and spoken English and Arabic required.
- Approximate monthly salary is \$1,700

**Only Online Applications will be accepted.**

Interested candidates are requested to apply online via our website at <http://jobs.undp.org/>. Response will only be made to short listed candidates.

The deadline for receiving applications is Thursday, 06 January 2011.

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ناور المفاخر الشهور: شهر الزين، الزمر  
الباهر/ رئيس التحرير المحور العام للتحرير

## Magical Istanbul with Turkish Airlines



Thermal water spa on the way to Istanbul from Bursa.



The tour group near Sultan Ahmed Mosque in Taksim Square, Istanbul.

By: Rashid Ali Al-Saqqaf  
ADVERTORIAL

Eleven of us, all representatives of tourist agencies and media, were invited for the exceptionally delightful experience of visiting two Turkish cities. Our five-day trip was sponsored by Turkish Airlines in partnership with Helen Holidays, and already at the airport in Istanbul we were received by an agent of Helen Holidays.

After unpacking at Movenpick Istanbul we headed to the Bosphorus Strait where we took a yacht across this tourist sight. The water reflected the spectacular green of the hills that merged with the colors of roses all around us.

We passed under the first two hanging bridges that connect the Asian Istanbul with European Istanbul. The bridges are high enough to allow large ships to pass underneath. We then headed off to Marmara port and visited the palace where the famous soap opera "Muhanad and Noor" was filmed. The architecture was impressive and from this example we learned how the old merged with the new in this ancient yet modern city. In the evening we were entertained in a dance and singing performance at one of Istanbul's famous restaurants, the Istanbul Inn.

The following day we visited the Princes' Islands, which is made of nine islands and is one of the most beautiful sights in the world. We disembarked on the largest island, the Buyukada. Here we were greeted by fresh air as cars are banned on the island: transportation is by bicycle or horse carriage only. The island's architecture combines Ottoman and European styles. On Buyukada we had lunch in one of the res-

taurants on the water. The service was impressive and we felt really appreciated as tourists.

Our boat trip was followed by a visit to four famous hotels: Grand, Innpera, Taksim Gonen and Crystal Istanbul. These are top quality, five-star hotels with all facilities and amenities, including swimming pools.

Early the third day we headed off to the city of Bursa, which is 220 kilometers west of Istanbul. Bursa is one of the many industrial cities of Turkey. Here we visited three hotels: Anatdia, Bala Barsa and Almira hotel. The whole day we went sightseeing in the city and spent the night in Almira Hotel.

On the fourth day we headed back to Istanbul. On the way we enjoyed the hot water of a thermal spa. People come to the spa from around the country and even from abroad to relax and receive natural treatment for respiratory and skin diseases.



Bosphorus Strait.

Back in Istanbul we stayed at the Elite World Hotel on Taksim Square. The area around the square is one of the most attractive places for tourists in Istanbul, where we spent most of the day.

On the last day we visited Sultan Ahmed Mosque. Due to its blue colored domes and windows it is also known under its second name: the Blue Mosque. In the national museum we saw the largest diamond in the world and also some of the prophet's possessions. Later we passed by the national library and admired its many historical and rare books.

We then headed to the office of our hosts, the headquarters of Turkish Airlines. Our last stop in this memorable trip was the DO & CO flights catering company, where we had a tour around their kitchen to see how they produce excellent meals for flights.

Visiting Turkey was a remarkable experience that no one should miss.

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