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**Knitting a Successful Business:** The Small Business and Microfinance Fair kicked off in Al-Sabaen Park on Sunday. The week-long event gives dozen of Yemeni entrepreneurs a chance to meet the public and possibly find potential investors. Read more on Page 9 (Photo by Ali Al-Moshki)

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## Shabwa officials scramble to increase security after Friday attacks

**Inadequate entry point protection has left the area vulnerable to further terrorist attacks, officials say**

**Nasser Al-Sakkaf**

SHABWA, Sept. 23—The marine brigade assigned to protect Bilhaf liquefied natural gas fields in Shabwa, located almost 500 km. east of capital Sana'a, has redistributed its forces in order to protect the important national revenue source against future potential attacks.

Bilhaf fields is the nation's largest gas and oil export outlet. It's destruction could deliver a huge blow to the nation's economy.

Deputy Security Manager of Shabwa governorate Mubarak Lazlam said the twin attacks on Friday in which 22 soldiers died and 18 soldiers were injured, has forced security officials to come up with new strategies to combat Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), the extremist militant group, believed to be behind the violence.

"We have stationed soldiers along the coastal line and surrounding the oil field since Saturday," Lazlam said. "We did not cover these areas before this intensely, but the terrorist attacks have made us extremely alert."

The security official emphasized that his forces are still having problems covering the governorate's entry points as well as rural and remote

areas, leaving the area vulnerable to future attacks.

Friday's attackers are believed not to be from Shabwa but from the Al-Mahfad district, in Abyan governorate.

"They received help and intelligence from elements inside Shabwa, but they weren't locals," said Nasser Al-Malesh, Shabwa's deputy governor.

The nation's security forces have expressed concern that the attackers were able to return to Abyan after the assault.

"Controlling Shabwa's border with Abyan is a priority, and we hope to get it done in the coming days," said Lazlam.

In an effort to increase security, there are currently three stationed state military brigades in Shabwa, in addition to a marine brigade specifically assigned to protect the Bilhaf oil fields. Moreover, another two army brigades are based in the governorate's capital Ataq and are responsible for maintaining overall

security in the governorate.

On Friday morning, in the first of the two attacks, soldiers came under fire and a car bomb exploded in the Maifa'a district in a security zone where 70 soldiers should have been stationed but only a reported 30 were on duty because of the weekend, according to Al-Milesh.

There have been no reports on the number of suspected AQAP affiliates involved in the incident, but officials have said eight soldiers were killed.

Al-Milesh said soldiers tried to call for backup but reinforcements were not sent in time.

A second car bomb also exploded Friday morning in a security zone in Radhoom district, about 40 km. from Bilhaf oil fields. Security forces were also came under heavy fire, killing 14 soldiers and injuring another 18.

Security analyst Mohammed Al-Khaled argues that these attacks are in retaliation for AQAP losing their strong hold in Abyan after a U.S.-backed military campaign in mid 2012 that drove the militants from

the region.

"Since then, [AQAP] have been making regular threats to take revenge," said Al-Khaled. "However, the state does not take those threats seriously enough and hence the loose control over entry points."

Shabwa, Al-Khaled says, is an ideal place for AQAP affiliates to flourish because of its terrain that allows for hiding and its concentration of oil fields, that serve as government targets.

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## School students adapt to new weekend in Yemen

**Samar Al-Ariqi**

SANA'A, Sept. 23—Unlike previous years, Mohammed Hani, a 7th-grade student, has to get up at 5:30 a.m. every day to prepare his bag and have breakfast, before heading to school.

For the first time, all Yemeni students and teachers have had to switch to a new weekly schedule, which starts Sunday mornings at 6:45 a.m. and ends Thursday afternoons.

Hani said he is trying hard to adapt to the new Friday-Saturday weekend after the Ministry of Education decided to increase the number of lesson hours to seven, instead of six lesson hours in the old Thursday-Friday weekend system.

Some students objected to the new schedule with an extra hour per day because, they said, it is tiresome. But there are other people who are happy with the decision.

Yemen's government shifted to

the new weekend, in August 2013, in order to align the country with international financial markets to better serve the country's economic interests. At the start of the new academic year, all schools and educational institutions across the country followed the new regulation.

"The additional lesson hour isn't a big problem for me as we start only 45 minutes before the previous schedule and finish at the same time, about 12:00 p.m.," Hani said.

Ghaleb Saeed, a father of a female student named Baraka, is against shifting to the Friday-Saturday weekend. He said it does not serve Yemeni students and "their needs for more education."

Referring to the Friday-Saturday weekend, Saeed said that the new off-days do not address serious education shortcomings, such as lack of qualified teachers and textbooks. "Instead of making more days off," he asked the Ministry of Education to get serious about literacy.

Faiza Ahmed, a private school female teacher, said switching to the new weekend would not affect teachers or schools, simply because it has not added anything to the previous lesson hours, and the ministry only shifted to a Saturday off, instead of half day on Thursdays.

Ahmed Al-Sadi, a public school teacher, said students face difficulties, due to the Ministry's decree, as most of them arrive late to the school usually in the first lesson hour and are not concentrated enough during the last class hour.

Jamal Abdulwahab, a psychologist in Sana'a, said elementary school students are only able to concentrate for five hours maximum, with advanced level students being able to take on a slightly larger load.

"The Education Ministry should have taken the students in elementary schools into consideration when they decided to increase the number of class hours," Abdulwahab, said.

## Prime minister promises resolution for Yemeni fishermen detained in Eritrea

**Rammah Al-Jubari**

HODEIDA, Sept. 23—Following a week of protests in Sana'a, Prime Minister Mohammed Salem Bas-indwa met Sunday with representatives from families of detained Yemeni fishermen who have been detained in Eritrea for over two years, promising to work with the African nation's government to secure their release.

Last week, over 70 families arrived in Sana'a from Hodeida to stage protests, calling attention to their family members' captivity.

The families protested in front of

the president's house on Al-Siteen Street, as well as in front of the Parliament building and Cabinet.

The head of the Fishermen Association, Mohammed Thabet, said the meeting with the prime minister was fruitful and that he believes the prime minister has a great understanding of the issue now.

According to Ismael Al-Hyj, a member of the Fishermen's Union, an Eritrean committee is set to arrive in Sana'a next week to discuss current boundaries and try to build a joint-country understanding of fishing agreements.

In 1995, an agreement was ar-

bitrated by France that stated the two countries could share fishing waters.

While the Yemeni Foreign Affairs Ministry said Saturday that the Eritrean authorities recently released 1,400 Yemeni fishermen who have been detained for about a year, the Fishermen's Union, a syndicate that advocate for fishermen's rights, disputed the figure.

Al-Hyj says at most 130 fishermen have been freed, saying that the Yemeni government may be relying on statistics from the Eritrean government instead of tracking it themselves.

## Security tightens in Socotra following disappearance of fishermen

**Authorities continue to search for missing men**

**Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki**

SANA'A, Sept. 23—Yemeni authorities tightened security in Socotra, on Saturday, to protect local fishermen from kidnapping and piracy, to control illegal fishing and to monitor the coastline.

Colonel Salim Abdulla, Socotra's security chief, said the tightening of security measures includes the establishment of security checkpoints along the coast to monitor the movement of vessels and other activities and in order to identify people who travel in and out of the island.

"We designated four protected areas on the 300 mile coastline where fishermen can fish," he said. "All fishermen who come to the island should be registered."

Salim claimed that "several Somali fishermen come to the island, endangering Yemeni fishermen. An undetermined number of Yemeni fishermen have been kidnapped."

Salim said authorities developed the action plan in coordi-

nation with the Association of Fishermen and the Socotra Coast Guard.

The campaign on the island launched a week after the disappearance of five fishermen. Their whereabouts are still unknown.

Salem Daheq, the director of Hadibo area and the father of three disappeared fishermen, said the five fishermen disappeared last week. He said the authorities did not know if it was a result of seasonal winds or piracy.

"Fishermen are always kidnapped because large numbers of them come from Yemeni governorates and from Somalia without licenses," Daheq said.

Daheq said that security officials are continuing the search for the missing fishermen, adding that the security plan will reduce the number of kidnapping by monitoring the island's borders.

Socotra archipelago, which is a part of Hadramout governorate, had a population of 136,000 in 2004, according to the latest statistics.

Described as one of the most exotic areas in the world for its unique biodiversity, the island was added to the list of UNESCO World Heritage sites in 2008.



A leading political security officer, Saleh bin Thabet, survived an assassination attempt Sunday in Al-Mukalla, Hadramout.

Hadramout security manager Colonel Fahmi Mahroos told the Yemen Times that a bomb was attached to Thabet's vehicle in the Ba'bood neighborhood of Makala. Mahroos told the Yemen Times that Thabet was able to detect the bomb before it exploded, but security forces have yet to identify who is responsible. R.A.

A detonated grenade left one dead and five wounded Saturday in Al-Jumla market, in the heart of Taiz.

Taiz Security Administration's manager of general relations, Sultan Al-Aleemi, told the Yemen Times that a man threw a grenade at a vendor after quarrelling with him. The suspect has been arrested by the district's security forces, he said, and investigations are underway. R.A.

An unidentified armed male shot and killed Air Force member Colonel Abdulwahab Azan on Monday on Marib Street in the capital city. The suspect fled the scene on motorcycle.

Air Force spokesperson Abdulrahman Al-Hilali told the Yemen Times that Azan was immediately taken to Al-Jazeera Hospital, where he was pronounced dead shortly after arriving. A.A.

**Reporting by Ryam Al-Qadi and Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki**

## Short Film Festival highlights new wave of Yemeni directors

**Amal Al Yaris**

SANA'A, Sept. 23—Yemen's Short Film Festival on Saturday was a reminder of the growing popularity of cinema in this Arab nation, even if it was only the second festival, organizers and participants said.

The one-day event motivated many youth to take part and share their filmed stories.

Out of 101 films presented at the festival, five Yemeni films were awarded prizes ranging from YR100,000 to YR1 million (\$465 to \$4,651).

In addition to showing the awarded films in Yemeni cafés, and on the festival's YouTube channel, Fares Al-Sanabani, the head of the event, said the films are going to be shown in different venues in France, the U.K. and Dubai.

"The main goal of this festival was to renounce violence and cre-

ate an environment to spread the culture of peace and love," said Al-Sanabani, adding that the Yemen is largely stereotyped in the media as an extremist country.

Aziz Saleh, one of the festival attendees, expressed his admiration for the films produced.

"I didn't expect to see such great films made by Yemeni youths," he said. "These films deserve to participate in regional and international film festivals."

The event's films discussed different social issues and problems such as youth suicide, patriotism and tolerance.

Shatha Al-Harazi, a journalist and the rapporteur for Transitional Justice Working Group at the National Dialogue Conference, said the topics of the films touched Yemenis.

"The festival gave a space for talented youth to present their ideas

seriously and effectively," she said.

According to the minister of youth and sports, Muammar Al-Eryani, the festival is a chance for creative youths to express themselves.

**Cinema in Yemen**

Although there has been one other Short Film Festival, there is no large movie theater in Yemen, with the exception of one called the "national cinema," which shows football matches and old movies. During the 1950-60s, Yemen had 49 movie theaters but all have shut down gradually.

Some young participants at the festival expressed a desire for more of a film culture in Yemen.

"We have the ability to show our creativity but we have no chance to show them," said Dares Qaed, one of the directors of the award-winning film, 'Escape From Death.'

"Such festivals encourage us to produce more films."



### Top five films

**First place:** "For You I will Go" directed by Hamdi Mansour. This film centers around Yemen's current National Dialogue Conference.

**Second place:** "Nightmare" directed by Sam Abdul-Malek. Themes related to the harsh conditions policemen must work under are highlighted in this film.

**Third place:** "Escape to Death" directed by Dares Qaed. This film follows stories of those who have been smuggled across the Saudi Yemeni border.

**Fourth place:** "The Political Game" directed by Husam Ahmed.

Another film focused on the National Dialogue but highlighting disagreements between warring political parties.

**Fifth place:** "Regret" directed by Ismael Saleem. A short piece that brings to light suicide trends among the young.



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مركز خدمات الزبائن ١٥٢



# 'Under threats from all sides'

Rights group says Yemeni journalists increasingly victims of harassment and abuse

Yemen Times Staff

Despite an easing of controls on the press, there has been an alarming increase of attacks against Yemeni journalists under Yemen's new government, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said at press conference Thursday in Sana'a. As different political groups and factions compete for power in the post-Saleh era, the government is no longer the main culprit behind attacks and threats against the press, said the human rights group in their newly released report, "A Life-Threatening Career."

"In the past, journalists who suffered harassment, threats, and abuse knew to attribute it to the government," the report says. Journalists are now "under threat from all sides," according to Belkis Willie, a Human Rights Watch researcher on Yemen.

The removal of the country's 33-year ruler, President Ali Abdullah Saleh, left a political and security vacuum in Yemen, one that the transitional government, headed by former Vice President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi, is trying to reform by way of a national dialogue conference.

Since President Hadi's one-candidate election in February 2012, there has been an overall improvement in freedom of expression, said HRW. But, new attacks against the press have come from non-state actors, "including Houthi supporters and religious extremists," the report said.

During the height of the 2011 uprising, the Yemeni Journalist Syn-



Human Rights Watch's Belkis Willie says it's up to Yemen's transitional government to start prioritizing the safety of journalists.

dicade recorded 333 attacks "and other hostile actions against journalists and the media." The Freedom Foundation, a Yemeni organization that monitors press freedom, documented 260 separate incidents involving harassment, threats, enforced disappearance and attempted murder in 2012. In the first half of 2013 alone, there have been 144 recorded attacks and hostile acts, HRW said.

### The Case of Wagdy Al-Shabi

The HRW report detailed 20 cases against journalists since February 2012, including the case of 28-year-old Wagdy Al-Shabi, who was shot dead in his home on Feb. 22 of this year, along with his visiting police

officer friend.

"I saw two men wearing civilian dress and military vests with guns," Al-Shabi's wife told HRW. "They saw me and started shooting in my direction, but I was able to escape to the bedroom and hid with my children for the next 30 minutes..."

At the press conference, HRW told the audience that circumstantial evidence pointed the finger of blame at the Ministry of Defense.

The September 26 website, "which acts as a mouthpiece for the Ministry of Defense and whose reports are cleared by the ministry's media office before they are posted online," reported that Al-Shabi's death occurred during an AQAP attack on a checkpoint, and accused

Al-Shabi of being AQAP's press representative.

At the press conference, Willie told the audience that if authorities suspected Al-Shabi of being involved with Al-Qaeda, then they should have brought charges against him, presented evidence and given him a fair hearing.

### HRW: Progress is not linear, Hadi must investigate, prosecute those who attack the press

While Hadi's government was recognized for easing press restrictions, HRW called out Hadi's government for failing to carry out serious investigations and failing to bring those responsible to trial. The fact that no one has been prosecuted for the 20 cases detailed by HRW "renders

[the] media fearful of further attacks," Willie said.

One journalist at the press conference questioned whether Hadi's government has actually eased limitations and censorship or whether his government is simply too weak and incompetent to fully control the media.

Al-Shabi's relatives told HRW that police forces arrived an hour after the killings and have not contacted the victims' families since. HRW says that there have been no serious investigations conducted into the case.

Joe Stork, the deputy director of HRW's Middle East and North Africa division, recalled the "flowering of freedom of the press," after uni-

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fication of North and South Yemen in 1991. That progress was "choked off" after the civil war in 1994, he said. At the press conference, Stork warned that freedom of the press doesn't move in a linear line.

Journalist Khaled Al-Hammadi spoke for many Yemeni journalists when he explained the new atmosphere journalists face.

"No one at the time could publish anything about Saleh, the regime, or the Saleh family....Under Saleh,

journalists were worried about attacks from the intelligence authority, the Information Ministry and the presidency," Al-Hammadi said.

"Now, threats come from different sources: the former regime and the people loyal to it, the intelligence authority, the Defense Ministry, the Information Ministry, the presidency, people loyal to the president, tribal leaders, thugs of [the] former regime [and] the new regime."




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# 'Lost in a Fairy Tale' and 'Once Upon a Revolution'

## Yemeni poet uses verses and lines to build cultural understanding for English-speaking audience

Story and photos by  
Samar Qaed

**A**s Raghda Gamal reads out loud a poem she wrote in English, her slight Arabic accent hints that she is not a native-speaker, but the 28-year-old artfully pronounces each word with precision. It has been over five years since the young Yemeni poet began writing in a language not her own, but she says the decision has paid off.

Since she embarked on her English writing career, Gamal has been published twice, inspired other young writers to do the same and earned a name as one of Yemen's most promising talents.

"I have been writing poems in Arabic since I was a child, but I was very shy to show them to others," Gamal said. Although she cannot exactly pinpoint the reason that writing in English — a skill she picked up in secondary school and university — gave her courage, the switch gave the budding artist what she needed to compose her first published collection two years ago. Her first work consisted of 33 poems in a 66 page book on topics ranging from women's rights to personal relationships, entitled 'Lost in a Fairy Tale.'

Gamal credits the English department at Sana'a University for much of her success. She won a poetry competition there in 2008 and many of her colleagues helped her finance the publication of her first book. She was able to print 1,000 copies of her first collection of poems and distributed 80 percent of them for free at cultural events.

Working as the culture editor at



A first year medical student, poetry is Eman's hobby.

several Yemeni newspapers also helped Gamal develop her artistic craft.

But, the young woman knows there is much to learn and has struggled to find mentors.

"I usually send my poems to specialized critics to critique them," said Gamal, but because she writes in English in an Arabic-speaking country and those who would be able to critique in English often live out of the country and rarely reply to Gamal's requests, she hasn't had much luck finding an editor to provide her intense training.

One of the biggest advantages to writing in English, Gamal says, is to reach an audience who wouldn't necessarily be exposed to Yemen and its culture otherwise.

"I write poems for non-Yemeni English speakers who don't know about Yemen," she said. Gamal, like many young Yemenis, says her country is misunderstood and very few of those outside Yemen have any idea about her culture.

When it came time for her to write a second collection, like the majority of the country, Gamal was deeply affected by Yemen's



Switching from Arabic to English gave Raghda enough confidence to have her work published.

2011 popular uprising. Out of this monumental and tumultuous time came her second collection of poems, 'Once Upon a Revolution,' published in 2012.

While the inspiration for her 13 poem collection may have come easily, finding the funds to publish a second collection proved to be a challenge for Gamal.

"I had to pay all printing costs," she said. "I distributed most of the copies and sold the rest, but I was unable to cover all expenses."

In her venture to publish again, Gamal found out one of the reali-

ties of the book industry in Yemen — there are very few printers, and those that do exist are unable to help with any sort of marketing.

The head of the Book General Authority, Abdulbari Tahir, doesn't find Gamal's frustrations surprising.

"There aren't any projects that support the book industry in Yemen," said Tahir. "People don't read books written in Arabic, let alone the ones in English."

Nabeel Obadi, head of the Yemeni Publishers' Union, an independent body established in 2007 with 27 members, is also aware of the challenges facing his industry. He said sometimes the most a publisher can hope or in terms of book promotion is a good turnout at a book fair. But, he remains hopeful that eventually, with united efforts from book publishers, they will be able to shape a prolific book culture.

Despite her publishing struggles, Gamal's work has inspired other young poets to follow in her footsteps.

Eman Mahdi is preparing to publish her first collection of 20 poems in English after finishing her first semester's exams in the Medical School of Sana'a University. Poetry is her hobby.

"I contacted Gamal, and she gave me some comments on my collections and now I'm confident to publish," she said.

Gamal isn't slowing down either. She expects her third English-language collection to be done by the beginning of 2014, and this time she's not limiting herself to Yemen.

"I want a sponsor for my collections [to help] make my poems go international," she said.

### Poems from 'Lost in a Fairy Tale'

#### To be a girl..

You never thought that someday  
You'll wish to know  
What it's like to be a girl...  
You know those secrets  
Which consume me  
To know the strength inside me  
Which I never show  
To taste the tears that fall  
Or feel the hurt that  
Fills my heart...  
You never thought that someday  
You'll wish to sail  
Inside a woman's emotions..  
Ok, then  
Let me show you how  
We are so comfortable  
About being girls  
And let you hear  
Our thoughts about  
Life, death and  
Everything in between  
Fly high with me  
Breathe the same air  
And look at everything  
Through my eyes..  
Fly away  
Fly away..

#### To Saleem

#### The 12 year old kid who lost his eyes

They took his eyes just because he  
saw one of them  
They thought that they'd take  
the vision of the next generation  
by taking Saleem's eyes  
But they got it wrong  
Cuz this little boy  
gave his eyes  
to his country  
This little boy  
gives our children his vision  
and gives us his belief  
in a new Yemen



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# Saudi Arabia's proxy wars

Fahad Nazer  
Nytimes.com  
First published Sept. 20

Saudi Arabia appears resolute: It wants Bashar Al-Assad out of Damascus. The Saudis view the fighting in Syria with the same intensity that they did the civil war in Yemen that raged in the 1960s—as a conflict with wide and serious repercussions that will shape the political trajectory of the Middle East for years to come.

The Syrian war presents the Saudis with a chance to hit three birds with one stone: Iran, its rival for regional dominance, Tehran's ally Assad and his Hezbollah supporters. But Riyadh's policy makers are wary. They know that once fully committed, it will be difficult to disengage. And so they are taking to heart the lessons of another regional war that flared on their border 50 years ago.

The war in Yemen that broke out in 1962 when military leaders ousted the centuries-old monarchy and declared a republic quickly turned

into a quagmire that sucked in foreign powers. The Soviet Union provided the new regime with air support. British airstrikes aided the royalists and the United States offered warplanes in a symbolic show of force.

More than anything else though, the conflict became a proxy war between Saudi Arabia, which backed the deposed imam and his royalist supporters, and Egypt's Gamal Abdel Nasser, who supported the new republic. Nasser's vision of a united Arab "nation" free of Western domination and sterile monarchies resonated across the Arab world. The Saudi monarchy, wary of this republican fever on its border, decided it was not going to stand on the sidelines. The kingdom used all available means to try to check Nasser's ambitions—but it did not send troops.

By some estimates, Egypt sent as many as 55,000 troops to Yemen, some of whom became involved in fighting well inside Saudi territory, while others were accused of using chemical weapons supplied by the Soviet Union. Saudi Arabia pro-

**Nasser's vision of a united Arab "nation" free of Western domination and sterile monarchies resonated across the Arab world.**

vided money and weapons to the royalists. Yet neither side achieved its goals. Egypt's war with Israel in 1967 led Nasser to withdraw his forces, but the Saudis were unable to turn the tide. Riyadh was eventually forced to recognize Yemen's republican government.

Now as then, Riyadh sees the struggle in Syria as a defining moment. As the leader of the Sunni Muslim world, it perceives an opportunity to check what it sees as Iranian plans to encircle the kingdom with hostile Shiite-dominated regimes. As the war has taken on a more sectarian character, the usually reserved foreign minister, Prince Saud al-Faisal, has described Assad's onslaught against his own people as "genocide" and Syrian lands as being "under occupation"—a clear reference to the presence of Iranian and Hezbollah forces.

It is no secret that the Saudis are supplying elements of the Syrian opposition with weapons. They all but admitted as much when the prince said a few weeks ago that "if the international community

is not willing to do anything, then they must allow Syrians to defend themselves."

The Saudis will use all tools available to oust Assad, while taking measures to ensure that the weapons they're supplying to the rebels do not fall into the hands of extremists. Nevertheless, following the chemical attack on civilians near Damascus last month, the Saudi foreign minister spoke candidly about the inability of the Arab nations to put a stop to Assad's campaign through force of arms, adding that any military effort to do so would likely involve actors outside the region. Recent suggestions that the Arab League should assemble a military force to check Assad's aggression do not seem viable. Disagreements among the league's member nations have prevented it from agreeing to even endorse a potential U.S. strike.

But on Monday, the Saudi Council of Ministers issued a strong statement making clear that it considered preventing another chemical attack by Assad to be only a short-term goal. In the long-term,

he must be ousted.

Saudi Arabia will intensify its efforts to arm the rebels and to use its media outlets and diplomatic clout to rally support for a military strike. Although the kingdom is known for using its troops sparingly, it has done so judiciously in the past. Riyadh did, for example, send troops to Bahrain to show its support for the Sunni regime in the face of extended mass protests. Of course, Syria is not Bahrain, but neither is Saudi Arabia the same country that it was in the 1960s, when it failed to achieve its goals in Yemen.

The oil-rich kingdom of today wields far greater influence than it did half a century ago. There is no question that it will wield that influence forcefully, supporting the rebels with guns and diplomacy as it struggles to outmaneuver Iran, outflank Hezbollah and oust Assad.

*Fahad Nazer is a former political analyst with the Saudi Embassy in Washington.*

# How climate change sparked the crisis in Syria

Michael Shank and  
Emily Wirzba  
Usnews.com  
First published Sept. 13

What few people in Washington are talking about when it comes to the Syria crisis is the connection to climate change. While it may seem remote and implausible to Washington realists, the connection is clear. What is most disconcerting, however—vis-à-vis Damascus—is that America could have helped prevent Syria's violent revolution from escalating if we, alongside the international community, had done a better job helping out with one simple, but increasingly unattainable, resource: water.

Here's what happened: Prior to Syria's civil war, the country experienced a devastating drought impacting more than 1.3 million people, killing up to 85 percent of livestock in some regions and forcing 160 villages to be abandoned due to crop failures. Estimates that Syria's water scarcity problem would cause major social and economic instability, furthermore, emerged very early, just as President Barack Obama was taking office.

The warning signs were clear. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies published a report on the Syrian drought, noting that some 800,000 people were severely vulnerable, and "over the past three years, their income has decreased by 90 percent and their assets and sources of livelihood have been severely compromised."

Even America's own National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration released a study linking more frequent droughts in the Mediterranean and the Middle East to climate change. The study

noted that Syria was experiencing the worst drying in the region.

The international community, however, failed to effectively counter this crisis. A confidential cable sent from Syria explained the dire situation, with the Syrian minister of agriculture stating publicly that the economic and social fallout from the drought was beyond their capacity as a country to deal with.

**Beyond better funding and emergency aid response, we must first ferret out what leads to these resource conflicts and, in Syria's case, what led to its water conflict.**

The cable explained how Syria, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, U.N. Development Program and the World Food Program requested roughly \$20 million from donor countries and donor organizations to provide emergency food aid, restore food production and safeguard agricultural livelihoods. In a direct appeal to Washington, an FAO representative in Damascus even expressed

his hope that "improving relations" between the U.S. and Syria might encourage the U.S. to become a donor to the 2009 Drought Appeal.

The U.S. government balked at the appeal, saying: "Given the generous funding the U.S. currently provides to the Iraqi refugee community in Syria and the persistent problems WFP is experiencing with its efforts to import food for the refugee population, we question whether limited USG resources should be directed toward this appeal at this time." In light of America's lackluster leadership, the world's response was insufficient: Donor countries only ponied up around \$5 million, a quarter of the total need.

Let's make this mistake again, how can the international community, led by the U.S., do a better job of responding—preventively and pre-emptively—to resource scarcity issues that have the potential to instigate social unrest and mass violence?

Beyond better funding and emergency aid response, we must first ferret out what leads to these resource conflicts and, in Syria's case, what led to its water conflict. Remember that Israel occupied, for decades, one of Syria's greatest water resources—the Golan Heights—which Israel uses for its water supply, drawing from the rich Golan-fed Sea of Galilee. In fact, up to one-third of Israel's water supply comes from the Golan, water that Syria sorely needed.

Internal factors also contributed to the chaos, as there were serious issues with how the Syrian government managed national water resources. The combination of growing water-intensive wheat and cotton, using inefficient irrigation techniques like flooding and leaky water distribution networks, meant that vast quantities of water were wasted. Exacerbating the problem further, Syria sold the vast

majority of its wheat reserves when global wheat prices were high, forcing the country to later import vast amounts of wheat during the drought years.

Desperate for water, farmers drilled illegal water wells, rapidly depleting an already-low water table and causing an increase in the salinity of the water. In eight years, the number of wells drilled had almost doubled to more than 213,000. In response, according to the New York Times, the Syrian government began "to acknowledge the scale of the problem and has developed a national drought plan." Additionally, Syria tried to obtain international funding for programs to address the widespread failure of crops, but these programs were not ultimately effective given lack of funding.

The West must realize that Syria is not alone in its environmental risk assessment; much of the Arab Spring is understood to have a cli-

mate change correlation, if not causation. Yemen is at the top of that risk list, struggling with severe water shortages. And yet America continues to countenance these revolutions and this violence with, primarily, violence. This is not an effective path towards prevention.

America, furthermore, is missing opportunities to preventively and pre-emptively intervene in dealing with root causes of conflict before they metastasize into violence. As Francesco Femia, co-founder of the D.C.-based Center for Climate and Security, noted, "many international security analysts were essentially predicting that Syria was immune to the Arab Spring. They concluded it was generally a stable country. What they had missed was that a massive internal migration was happening, mainly on the periphery, from farmers and herders who had lost their livelihoods completely."

Any political solution in Syria, then, requires some assistance on this front, lest the civil war rage on.

We must not miss these moments in the future. From Syria to Somalia there are underlying reasons for revolution that a violent response will not mitigate, transform or resolve. Increasingly, for many of these conflicts, the answer lies in something as basic as water, food or shelter. The answer does not lie in million dollar Tomahawk missiles made by Raytheon. The answer lies in a million water wells for an increasingly parched planet. Try that for a change.

*Michael Shank is the director of Foreign Policy at the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). Emily Wirzba is the program assistant for sustainable Energy and the environment at FCNL.*



## First Axtension Announcement of Public Tender No. (12) of (2013)

Yemen Public Radio & TV corp. announces first extension to the opening of bid envelopes of the public announcement number 12 of 2013 about purchasing, supplying, installing, checking, authorizing, operating, delivering and guaranteeing the electromechanical technical equipment and supplies for Aden Channel Studios' Hangar project-Hoqat (to be handed over ready)-TTo Wednesday 25/9/2013.

Envelops will be opened on the aforementioned date at 11:00 pm at the above-mentioned corporation headquarter at the corporation chairman's office, located on the third floor, in attendance of the bidders or their officially delegated legal representatives.

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## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

**Post Title:** Secretary  
**Location:** Social Fund for Development – Head Office  
**Duration:** Full time including three (3) months probationary period  
**Closing Date:** 30 September 2013

### Main Responsibilities:

- Receive, direct and relay telephone messages and fax messages.
- Direct the general public to the appropriate staff member.
- Maintain the general filing system and file all correspondence.
- Assist in the planning and preparation of meetings, conferences and conference telephone calls.
- Make preparations for Board Council and committee meetings.
- Maintain an adequate inventory of office supplies.
- Respond to public inquiries.
- Provide word-processing and secretarial support.
- Type confidential documents on a word processing system.
- Any other related duties.

### Therefore:

SFD calls Yemeni Nationals females to apply for this job which also requires:

1. Bachelor Degree from a reputable University in English Literature or any related field.
2. At least three years of experience.
3. Proficiency in written and spoken Arabic and English.
4. Proficiency in using Microsoft programs (Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Access...etc)

### Submission guideline:

The application should comprise of a one-page cover letter explaining the applicants' interest and suitability for the position, indicating earliest joining date if selected, and detailed CV.

Interested candidates should submit their application by email to: [hr@sfd-yemen.org](mailto:hr@sfd-yemen.org) before September 30th 2013. Applications received after the closing date will not be considered. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for interviews.

### PALM YEMEN Ltd. Company Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

## JOB VACANCIES ANNOUNCEMENT

PALM YEMEN-Sana'a a leading company for General Services and Consultancy is looking for qualified Candidates who are able to ensure hotel services standards are achieved in all departments. PALM YEMEN provides a good salary and benefits package. Professional experience in Administration, facility operations and maintenance is the most critical selection factors for all of the positions. Inter personal skills, time management and Fluency in English are also a positive selection factors.

POSITION	DESCRIPTION
<b>Laundry Attendant</b>	Laundry Attendant is to coordinates the work efforts of the production and dry cleaning areas of the laundry department. Oversees productivity of other laundry associates, conducts weekly inventories; other duties as assigned by . Key duties/responsibilities of Laundry attendant are to sorts dried articles according to type, folds and places item in appropriate storage area, sorts torn and stained articles, sorts and counts articles to verify quantities on laundry requisitions, soaks contaminated articles and processes in de-staining cycle, clean lint traps and sweeps laundry room, loads articles into washer and adds specified amount of detergent, soap or other cleaning agent by programming laundry machines, operates laundry machinery such as washers, driers and ironers, starts machine that automatically washes and rinses articles and lifts clean, wet articles from washer and places them successively into driers for measured time cycles and other duties related to the position.
<b>Executive Secretary</b>	Executive Secretary is responsible for providing secretarial, clerical and administrative support in order to ensure that services are provided in an effective and efficient manner. His /Her main activities are to receive, direct and relay telephone and fax messages, maintain the general filing system and file all correspondence, assist in the planning and preparation of meetings, conferences, and other duties related to the position.
<b>Training Coordinator</b>	Training coordinator works in the company to identify training and development needs within an organization through job analysis, appraisal schemes and regular consultation with Head of departments and HR Director; Conduct ongoing Training Needs Analysis across the whole services and make sure that they are in line with company goals and objectives. Develop and implement training programs for employees in all departments and areas. Training programs can involve the day-to-day functions of the company and include work practices and methods. Identify and supervise training implementation agreements and negotiations with local and international providers. The training coordinator works with established programs in an organization to ensure that all workers receive the knowledge and skills to perform their jobs. The training coordinator might also develop new training programs or update existing programs for new work methods and equipment. Training sessions for employees also include safety policies and procedures, sexual harassment awareness training and diversity training. The training coordinator also maintains records in the organization and schedules employees for yearly training sessions. Coordinator must work with management and supervisory staff to develop individual training plans for employees.
<b>Maintenance Assistant Engineer</b>	Maintain the entire Palm Yemen (i.e., the main building, the Tent Restaurant and the Health Club facility and grounds) including the physical building structures, all plant, and related equipment in accordance with energy conservation and preventative maintenance programs. Ensure that all contractual requirements are complied with, and that budgetary goals are met. The position is also responsible for the safety and security of guests and associates of the Palm Yemen, especially in relation to Fire & Life Safety, Evacuation and Security issues. Ensure full compliance with, and implementation of, Department of State (DOS) Fire & Life Safety, security and facility standards plus Corporate policies and procedures.  <b>Requirements:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must have thorough knowledge of all types of mechanical equipment such as chillers, boilers, water treatment, and refrigeration equipment.</li> <li>• Must have thorough knowledge of plumbing and electrical systems, power, water and gas supplies.</li> <li>• Must have experience in office procedures, ordering materials, record keeping systems, applicable building laws, building construction, blueprint reading, etc.</li> <li>• Must possess good computer skills.</li> </ul>

This is a key position within the Palm Yemen management structure and as such should take a senior manager's overview of the Palm Yemen's operation to ensure that the Palm Yemen achieves its guest and associates satisfaction and profitability targets.

Interested Qualified applicants can send CV to [HR.Recruiter@palmiyemen.com](mailto:HR.Recruiter@palmiyemen.com)  
Deadline: October 7th, 2013. Only the short list will be contacted to attend the interview.

## Invitation for Bids (IFB)

### Republic of Yemen

Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation  
Agro-Biodiversity and Climate Adaptation Project (ACAP)/ Global Environment Facility (GEF)  
Grant NO.: TF096330  
Supply of Weather alert system for Civil Aviation & Meteorology Authority (CAMA)  
ICB No: ACAP/GEF/G/2/2013

1. The government of Yemen has received through the World Bank a grant from the Global Environment Fund (GEF Grant No. TF096330) towards the financing of the Agro-biodiversity and Climate Adaptation Project (ACAP) **Global Environment Facility (GEF)**, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this grant to payments under the Contract for **Supply of Weather alert system for Civil Aviation & Meteorology Authority (CAMA)**, ICB No: ACAP/GEF/G/2/2013.
2. The **Agro-Biodiversity and Climate Adaptation Project (ACAP)** now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Supply of Weather alert system for Civil Aviation & Meteorology Authority (CAMA)**, the bid will consist of two lots as follow:

**Lot 1:** Weather Studio (WS)

**Lot 2:** Web Server / Climatological Database (WSCD)

**The interested bidder can apply for one or more lots**

3. Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Guidelines.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from **Agro-Biodiversity and Climate Adaptation Project (ACAP)** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below, from 8.00 AM to 3.00 PM.
5. Post qualification requirements include:
  - (a) Financial Capability:  
The Bidder shall furnish documentary evidence that it meets the following financial requirement:  
A minimum average annual turnover: **US\$ 0.8 million** year in the last 3 years, along with documentary evidence.
  - (b) Experience and Technical Capacity;  
The Bidder shall furnish documentary evidence to demonstrate that it meets the following experience requirement:  
Performance data for goods may include Information on similar deliveries in the last three years description of competence of the bidder's technical personnel; and certification by official quality control institutes  
Complete details of qualification requirements are provided in the bidding documents.  
The Bidder shall submit with its bid the following additional documents:
    - (a) A copy of valid registration
    - (b) A copy of valid sales tax certificate + tax card.

Foreign companies are excluded from providing certificates, licenses and cards referred to above, and shall be required only to provide legal documents of eligibility issued by country of origin of these companies

A margin of preference for certain goods manufactured domestically shall not be applied. Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.

6. A complete set of Bidding Documents in **English** may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee **[100 US\$] plus 50US\$ for courier services charge**. The method of payment will be in cash or cashier's check. The document will be sent by [courier Service].
7. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before **11:00 am on (6/11/2013)**.

Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person or on-line at the address below **At 11:00 AM on (6/11/2013)** All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of,

**Lot (1):** Weather Studio (WS) USD 10,000, **Lot (2):** Web Server / Climatological Database (WSCD) US D10,000] or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.

8. The address referred to above is:

**Agro-Biodiversity and Climate Adaptation Project (ACAP)**

Attn: Ms. Bilquis Anwar AS attar.

Abu Baker Al Sedek Street In front of the Raiman Schools

Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

Tel: +967 1 441770- 450472

Fax: +967 1 441768

Email: [acap@yemen.net.ye](mailto:acap@yemen.net.ye)

### REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

#### CIVIL AVIATION AND METEOROLOGY AUTHORITY (CAMA) SANA'A NEW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PROJECT- (Phase-1)

Construction of the Remaining Works of New International Passenger Terminal Building

## INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION

The Government of Yemen has received a credit from Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development towards the costs of the construction of Sana'a New International Project – Phase 1 and intend to apply a portion of the funds to eligible payments under the contract (s) resulting from the bidding for which the pre-qualification is conducted.

The Civil Aviation and Meteorology Authority (CAMA) intends to pre-qualify contractors for the remaining construction works related to the new Passenger Terminal Building Project

The Remaining Works are as follows included but not limited to:

- a) Remaining Works of the New Passenger Terminal Building (TB) (Structural and Architectural Works).
- b) Terminal Building Ground Water Tank.
- c) Mechanical Works Installation.
- d) Electrical Works Installation.
- e) Electro & Mechanical Yard (EMY) and Service Gate.
- f) External Works.
- g) Equipment end Systems (ELV, SAS, Telecom, Conveying System,...etc.)

Prequalification will be conducted through prequalification procedures of the High Tender Board Committee Guidelines and it is open to all bidders from eligible countries as prequalification document.

Interested eligible applicants may obtain further information and inspect to collect the complete set of the prequalification document at CAMA (Project Implementation Unit) address given below or from our web address [www.camayemen.com](http://www.camayemen.com) from the day of this announcement.

Application for prequalification SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO CAMA (Chairman Office) TO THE ADDRESS MENTIONED BELOW BY Thursday 31.10.2013 at 10:00 O'CLOCK and be clearly marked "Application to pre-qualify Contractors for the construction of Sana'a New Int. Airport Project – Phase 1 – Terminal Building, CAMA –TBD-2013 ICB NO: Y0205/5/6".

#### (PIU) address is:

Project Implementation Unit (PIU)

Mohammed Y. Alyadomi

Airport Road (Jiraf)

Sana'a Republic of Yemen

Phone: 00967- 327668

Fax : 00967- 327667

E-Mail: [nsiap@camayemen.com](mailto:nsiap@camayemen.com)

[siadp2004@yahoo.com.hk](mailto:siadp2004@yahoo.com.hk)

#### (CAMA) address is:

The Chairman

Civil Aviation & Meteorology Authority (CAMA)

HEAD Office, Zubeiry Street

P.O. Box: 1042,

Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

Tel. Nr. +967 1 274717

Fax. Nr. +967 1 274718

E. Mail [chairman@cama.gov.ye](mailto:chairman@cama.gov.ye)



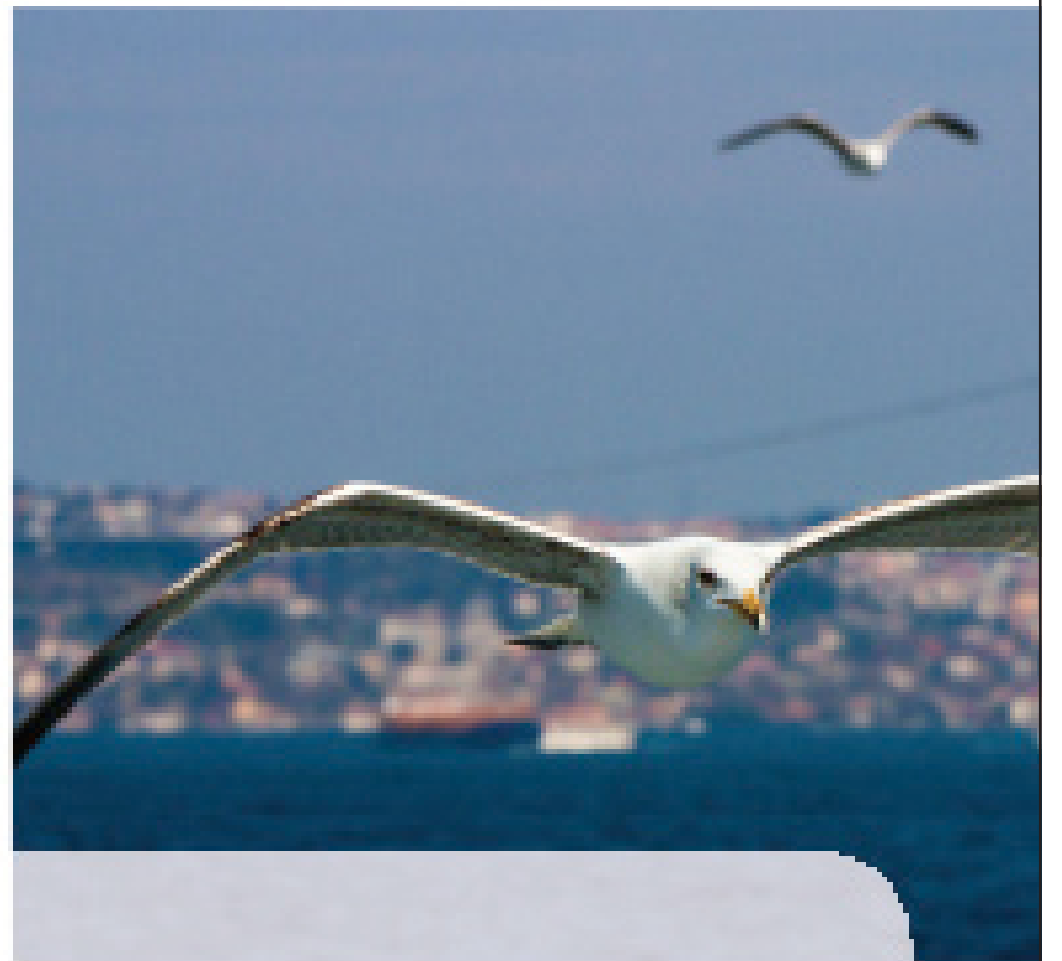
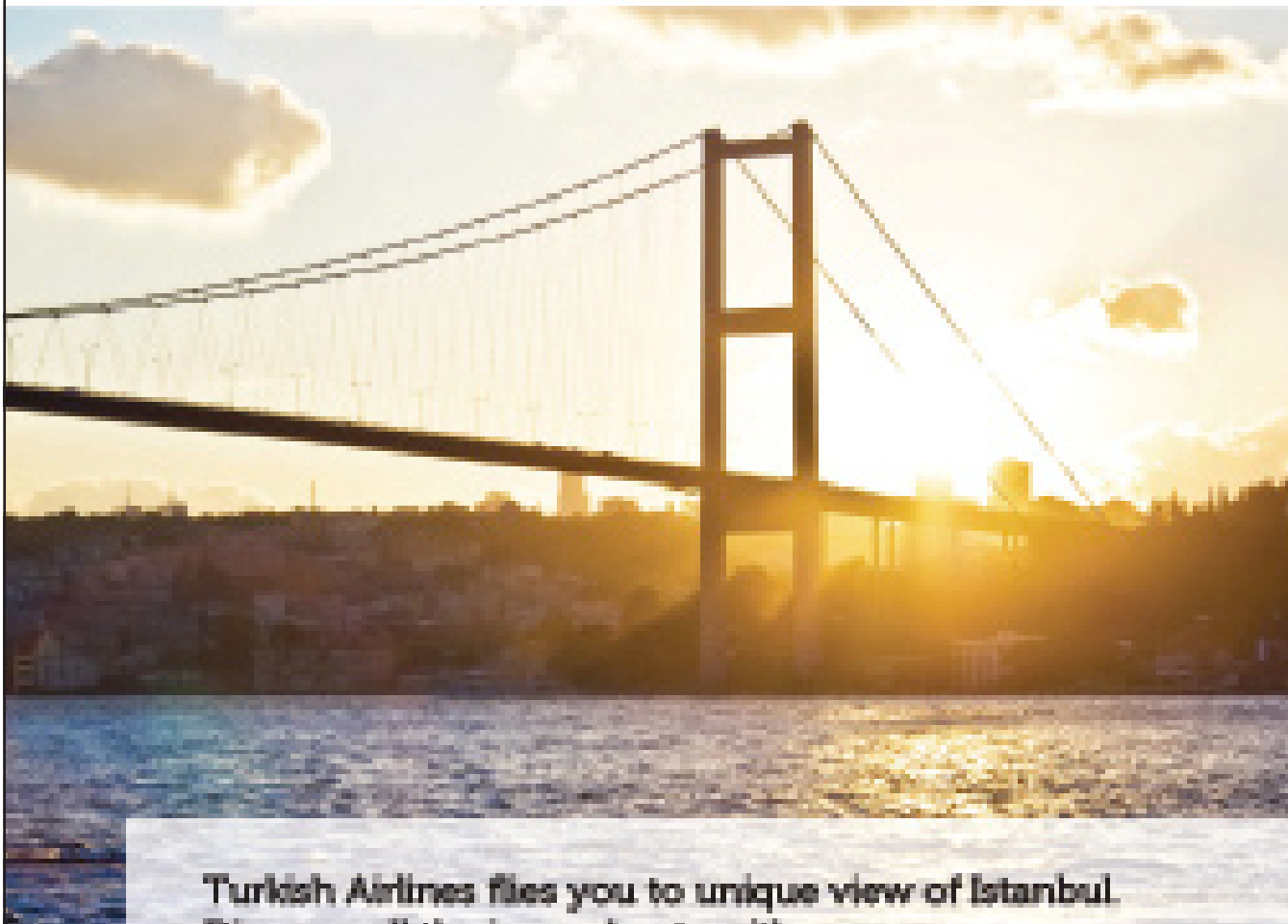
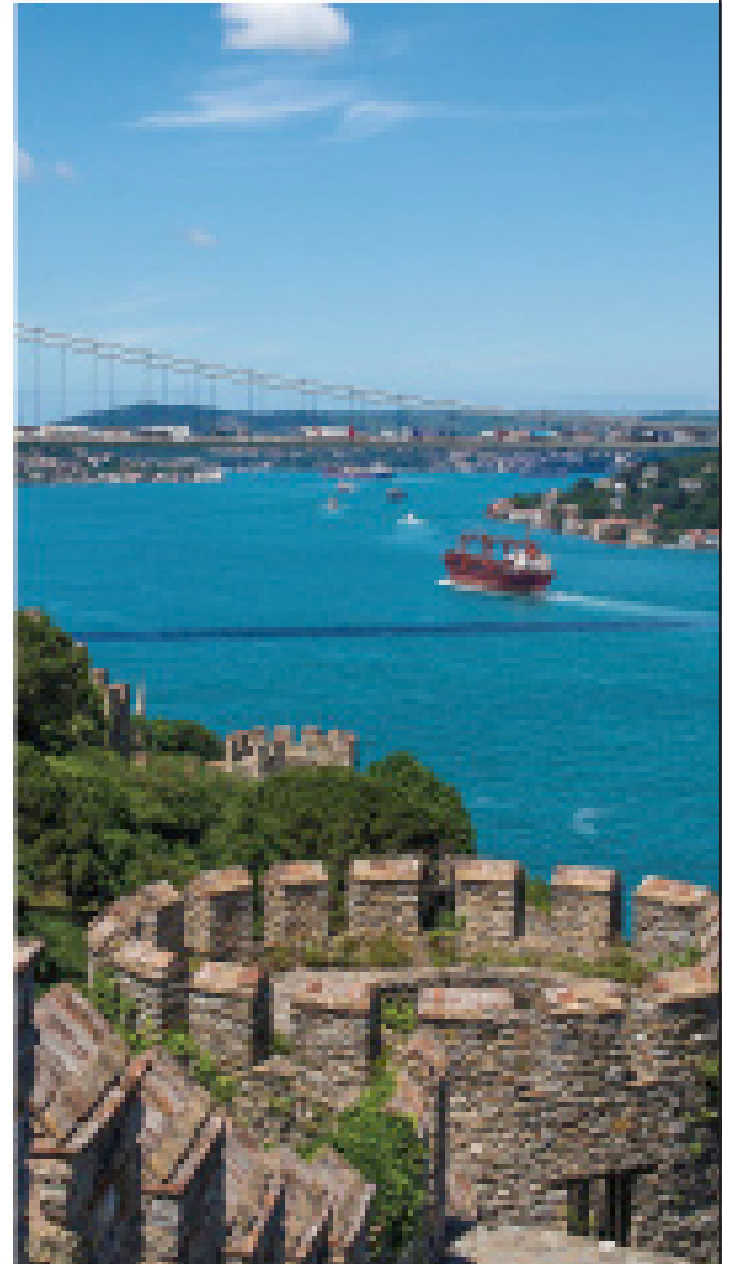


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GlobalFlyYears







# Yemen's Small Business Fair offers participants a chance to be heard



A locally-made doll made with palm leaves and shells was exhibited by Aden Microfinance on Sunday, Sept. 22.

Story and photos by  
Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

The week-long Small Business and Microfinance Fair, launched Sunday on 70th Street in Sana'a, has brought entrepreneurs from throughout the state to showcase their products and services to the public.

With participation of 14 small enterprise owners, 60 clients benefiting from the microfinance funds were present at the 8th annual fair.

Abdulrahman Al-Sanani, a carpenter and interior designer from Sana'a who specializes in making and repairing old wooden boxes and windows, hopes to reach out to new customers in the upcoming days.

Among other products showcased by participants, there are

embroidered Yemeni clothes, decorated old boxes and doors, jewelry, local incense and perfumes.

The fair is organized by the Yemen Microfinance Network, funded by the Social Development Fund and supervised by the Capital Secretariat. It aims to introduce the vital role of small and micro enterprises in creating job opportunities for graduates, unemployed youth and families by providing finan-

cial support and equipment.

According to a World Bank report, published in 2011, the microfinance sector in the Arab world is still small, but thriving.

"While each country in the region poses unique challenges, low levels of microfinance penetration in MENA can be attributed to a lack of regulation that supports robust growth of microfinance institutions," announced the World Bank, in another report released last month.



A model of a Yemeni woman wearing traditional jewelry at the Small Business and Microfinance Fair.



Traditional jewelry with aqeeq and silver sold for about YR100,000 (\$465) on Sunday.



Mohammed Al-Namri, one of the microfinance beneficiaries, engraves Quran verses and people's names on small wooden pieces for YR200 to YR700 (90 cents to \$3.2) at the fair.



Azal Microfinance Project exhibited the wooden cases for Djambia, the traditional Yemeni dagger.



Dolls in Yemeni traditional clothes to showcase the Yemeni traditional costume at the fair.

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الشركة اليمنية للمعدات والتجهيزات الجلودة

# انطلق مع تازا

Taza cake  
Cup cake chocolate coated





# Despite financial restraints and social taboos, newly-weds are quietly pursuing independent lives

Ali Abulohoom

Just two years ago, 45-year-old Mohammed Ghalib, set out on the path of independent life. He left his parents' house, along with his wife and children.

For 10 years after his marriage, Ghalib, an employee at Sana'a University, was living beside his extended family in one house, until he says it became "unbearable."

"My brothers got older and the number of people living under one roof was growing," said Ghalib. "So the house could no longer accommodate the growing number of our family."

With a monthly salary of YR70,000 (\$325) from the university, now he is renting a home for almost half his salary.

In Yemen, it's still tradition for newly-married women to live with their in-laws, at least for a few years. To keep this rite of passage alive, the family makes a special bedroom for the new couple. But when it comes to other family activities like eating, all of them usually convene at the same place.

But, unlike Ghalib's story, it is not always the increase in household size that push newly married men to leave their parents' place. Sometimes, they leave their parents to feel more independent and grown-up.

Recently-married Emad Tawaf, 27, an accountant at a medical company, left his parents' house two months after his wedding party.

"I am able to cover the cost of living, and now I feel I am independent," said Tawaf, whose monthly salary is YR100,000 (\$465) and is now renting an apartment in Sana'a for YR30,000 (\$139).

Tawaf recognizes that it's his personal finances that allowed for this move. For most people, it just

makes sense economically to stay with their extended family.

Thirty-year-old Hassan Al-Tamimi, a secretary in the Ministry of Transportation, who earns about YR40,000 (\$186) a month, once wanted to follow in Tawaf's footsteps, but he wasn't earning enough money to support a household on his own and found himself entangled in debt.

"My wife and I returned to my family in order to overcome the financial crisis," Al-Tamimi said. "I am looking forward to being independent again, but now that's my next project."

Aside from financial concerns, sometimes Yemeni traditions and social norms keep married men at home.

Mohammed Al-Bahlouli, a merchant, is originally from the Khawlan area of Sana'a governorate. The 32-year-old faced a backlash from his family when he broached the subject of moving out.

Referring to the day he shared the idea of renting a separate place with his family, Al-Bahlouli said his father threatened him by cutting him off from the entire family.

"My father considered my decision as a breach of allegiance and against our domestic norms, because he thinks being close together helps us to solve family-related issues," he said, pointing to his father's words, "United we stand, divided we fall."

However, Al-Bahlouli is not convinced. "I want to feel free. I cannot take off my clothes except in my bedroom. I can't joke with my wife unless we are in the bedroom." He says it's stifling.

Dr. Jamal Al-Arash, a social affairs researcher at Sana'a University, said Yemeni tribal families tend to respect their norm and values, and that keeps families together.

Mohammed Al-Akhali, who is

from Taiz governorate and lives with his wife in Sana'a, said renting an apartment in the capital is not easy. "But I prefer to live independently and freely with my wife even if it is costly."



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**WASL project:**  
 Space for adolescents to speak up

The team and partners of WASL project is stepping up efforts to achieve the goals of its unique project. Targeting children aged between 15-17 years, the project scope provides a rare opportunity for children in this critical age to reflect their aspirations and speak out about their rights and issues within a safe and enabling environment.

The project focuses on the abilities of these children and the points of their strength and seeks to empower them dialogue around issues that affect their growth, development and well being. The project aims to reach to at risk adolescents (15- 17 years) covering issues such as the marginalized , orphans, students and drop outs, street children, children as victims of child labor, disabilities, child marriage, child justice, child trafficking and child recruitment.

"Children (all persons under the age of eighteen years) represent over fifty percent of Yemen's population and it is crucial that the voices of this key constituent, who also represent the future of this country, are captured at this critical time in Yemen's history" said Alison Parker, Chief of Communication & advocacy at UNICEF.

Adolescence is a time of intense physical, psychological, and emotional transition in the life of a young person. It is a foundational period when social, behavioural and attitudinal patterns- already set from early childhood are crystallized and reinforced. In this crucial period, positively supporting adolescents and harnessing their energies to participate in matters affecting their lives contributes to healthy individual developmental processes, Parker emphasised.

She also called on the media to foster an effective balance between political stability and security on hand and the humanitarian and development context on the other as both are two sides of the same coin and are mutually reinforcing.

Partnering with 5 national partners YNGO, Democratic School, YLDF and Soul along the media partner Equal Access, the government plays a key support role in providing directions to the project through an active steering committee which comprises of Ministries of Planning, Education, Youth, Human Rights, Legal Affairs and Social Affairs.

Rana Taher, Co-Founder and Project Manager of Tammy for Human Development, said Yemen is the first country in the Arab region to have conducted a direct consultation focusing specifically on adolescents aged 15- 17 years. The project is not limited to a hearing campaign and consultation with adolescents but also stresses on adolescent participation at different levels portrayed with adolescents' engagement at the structure of the project such as the steering committee.

"We conducted hearing sessions for them to know and understand their issues," she said. "We reflected all their needs and issues, concerns and aspirations in a document showing their rights to consider them."

"In addition to their demands for basic rights, they voiced their concerns over the current situation," she added.

In the next month, a national conference will be held to present the outcomes of WASL project by adolescents themselves.

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Ministry of Fainance, Yemen  
Public Finance Modernization Project  
IDA Grant No: HR6350-YR

# INVITATION FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

## Individual Consultant For "Develop and Improve HATC Existing Website" Ref: 10/C3.3/CS/IC/PFMP-AF/13

### INTRODUCTION:

As an immediate effect of issuing the National Procurement Law (NPL) No.23, the High Authority for Tender Control (HATC) was established as an independent public body under the direct supervision of the President of Yemen. In 2009, the Board of Directors was elected to pursue HATC's duties and mandates stipulated by the NPL. As part of the Government of Yemen (GoY) reform program, the Government embarked a Public Financial Management Reform (PFMR) in 2005. A PFMR action plan was then formulated on the basis of this reform and was divided into two phases in which the first phase was implemented during the period 2006- 2008, and the second phase of PFMR action plan started in 2009. The World Bank was one of the leading funding institutions who had participated in the Public Finance Modernization Project (PFMP) since early 2006 by providing the funds for Public Finance Management Reform (PFMR). The second PFMR grant includes a component for strengthening government capacity and institutions to strengthen public procurement systems. This component was allocated for capacity building for High Authority for Tender Control (HATC) via: a) developing organizational strategy that reflects a complete framework of strategic planning for the newly established Authority, b) providing essential office equipment for HATC offices; c) establishing effective Contract Registration and Complaints Management Information System (CRCMIS). The consulting service under consideration is part of HATC capacity building to ensure the enforcement of the law; it aims at improving the existing web site to ensure proper dissemination of public procurement information to all concerned parties through HATC web site as a National Procurement Portal, and improve transparency. The consulting services will be funded from the PFMP proceeds.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

HATC has already developed a web site which is already in use since 6th Jan 2010; it includes the following information and functions in Arabic Language:

- About HATC (Board members - Technical Office - PMIS Project, the organizational structure of HATC, etc.)
- Reports and statistics.
- Activities and events.
- Tenders Law and the Regulations, and manuals and models (multiple options to view documents)
- Guestbook.
- Electronic Library.

- Complaints, grievances and complaints and inquiries.
- Advertise tenders for government's agencies.
- The minutes of the meetings and the results of the meetings and decisions.
- The names of government's agencies who subscribe in the website.
- Give access to agencies members to insert the data at the website.
- Site Map.
- Contact Us.
- E-mail to subscribers.

### OBJECTIVES:

The main objective of the consultancy services is to develop the existing HATC web site and expand the dissemination of data and information about the public procurement activities and channels of communication with the other government's agencies through the interactive website on the Internet, which should responds to the needs for improving the monitoring and follow up process for HATC. The objectives are:

- Publicize the activities and functions of HATC.
- Improve the existing window for publishing tenders and data definition and facilitation of the access process to tender announcements by the beneficiaries.
- Find a direct link between the HATC and other government agencies and all citizens and beneficiaries using variety of communication methods offered by Internet technologies
- To provide information and reports, forms used by Government procuring entities, citizens and beneficiaries and facilitate the process of access.
- Enable the outside world of governments, agencies and donors and investors to check out the data, services and information related in promoting transparency in public procurement achieved in Yemen.

### DETAILED TASKS OF THE CONSULTANTS: A - Scope of work: Development the existing website to meet This requirements:

- Website display (Arabic/English).
- Build and develop the library system.
- Develop a variety pages
- Provide a variety of reports.
- Database upgrade
- The possibility of linking with different databases format.

### B - General Specifications

- (Arabic / English) design meets the following requirements:

- Attractive and harmonious design and commensurate with the nature of the site
- The possibility of the amendment on the general shape of the site through the Control Panel.
- The ability to customize a different form of the site for the section / page within
- Develop the pages of control panel that manage the bids and tenders publishing
- Build and develop the library system according to the different powers of entry system can be controlled and adjusted.
- Upgrade the site database: upgrade the database from version 4.1 to version 5.0 and modify the necessary technical web pages code.
- Develop the system of authentication
  - Identify different access control for users.
  - Gives the possibility to determine the data that is submitted in accordance with the access control of users.
- Marketing website on search engines: Use SEO technic to deployment site on the search engines and increase site Page Rank (requires providing detailed technical report before and after the implementation of showing the actual results of the implementation).
- Website Language: The website designed requires to display data is Arabic and English language, so that the applicable components of the interfaces in Arabic pages apply to the English pages.
- Preparation of a manual for use: Develop manuals and Site Management Guide:
  - Data Management Guide bids and tenders within the control panel-oriented destinations (To unities users).
  - Site Management Manual. (Internal guide)
- The consultants should provide the implementation plan and how to coordinate with the HATC through various stages of implementation (but not more than two months).

### DURATION OF SERVICES AND REPORTING:

The duration of the assignment is expected to take **two months** from the date of signing the contract. The Consultant(s) shall submit reports along with planned deliverables at the end of every stage. At the end of the assignment, the Consultant(s) is expected to successfully complete the following deliverables:

- An Inception Report **within 15 days** from the

- commencement date, excluding the time taken by the client/financer for review and comments, that includes: (a) the overall evaluation of the existing website; (b) a proposed work plan for subsequent stages, (d) the assessment of required equipment for the ongoing upgrade of the site
- A Draft Final Report **within 30 days** from the date of receiving Clients comments on the Inception Report, which should follow the installation of the upgraded site and should includes the following
  - Website design templates
  - Development code of the website and control panel
  - Website admin user manual
- Training Manual and conducting training for **2-3 days** to the website admin team immediately after the installation of the system and submission of the Draft Final Report.
- Testing the system and debugging for **15 days**.
- A Final Report, within 7 days from receiving client's comments on the previous stage, incorporating Clients comments on the Draft Final Report, maintenance plan for six months, and recommendations for the further improvements in the system.
- Final Maintenance Report, at the end of six months from the date of successful completion of the system and acceptance by client summarizing the activities conducted by the consultant during the maintenance period and recommendations for proper future maintenance of the system.

### CONTRACT AND PAYMENTS:

The consultant will be paid on Lump sum bases. Payments to the consultant will be made upon successful completion of the required milestone/deliverables acceptable to the client as follows:

Deliverable	Percentage of Payment
Inception Report	10% of the Contract Amount
Installation of the System and Draft Final Report (go live)	45% of the Contract Amount
Training Manual and Staff Training	10% of the Contract Amount
System debugging and Final Report	20% of the Contract Amount
Completion of the Maintenance and submission of the Maintenance Report	15% of the Contract Amount

### CONSULTANT'S REQUIREMENTS:

The prospective Consultant(s) should be a professional and qualified practitioner(s) and consultant(s) with advanced degree with demonstrable competencies in the following areas:

- A degree in relevant area: web design and engineering, Information or/and Communication Technology, or programming
- At least 7 years of developing and implementing government or public websites
- Artistic skills in designing website pages.
- In-depth knowledge and hands-on experience in developing official dynamic websites and pages.
- Change management, good communication skills and a good team player.
- Experience in conducting training to government staff
- Experience in maintaining ongoing support and maintenance
- The required language is English and additional knowledge of Arabic language is an asset.

- The consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedure set out in the world Bank Guidelines
- Only short listed applicants will be contacted
- Interested Consultants may obtain further information by contacting the PFMP office during official working hours (08:00 to 15:00) at the project's address below
- Expressions of Interest must be submitted not later than 13.10.2013 ,along with a cover later indicating the subject of "Develop and Improve HATC Existing Website Ref: 10/ C3.3/CS/IC/PFMP-AF/13" to: [procurement@pfmpyemen.org](mailto:procurement@pfmpyemen.org)

or by hand to the address below: -

**Mr. Kailan Alshaif**  
Project Executive Director  
Public Finance Modernization Project  
Ministry of Finance  
P.O.Box: 5823/4,  
Abu Dhabi St., Sana'a  
Tel. [+967-1-504168], Ext. (103),  
Fax: [967-1-243038]

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### الخاصة بإنشاء محطة كهربائية بقدرة 150

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آخر يوم لبيع الوثائق	تاريخ فتح المظاريف
3/10/2013	8/10/2013





# Government ministries evade financial responsibility for branches of state's slaughterhouses

## Employees enter fourth month without pay, public hygiene compromised

Story and photos by Samar Qaed

The 2011 uprising removed a 33-year leader, but also had many unintended consequences. The General Slaughterhouse and Meat Markets Corporation (GSMC) Sana'a branches went from bringing in an average of about YR45 million monthly, about \$200,000, to a low of YR3 million, or \$14,000 a month, during the height of the upheaval. Pre-uprising, the government supervised the corporation was self-sustaining financially, independent of state funding.

Not anymore. Although there have been signs of an improving economy overall in Yemen, at the GSMC in Sana'a employees are not happy. They have not received their salaries for the past three months, and have been passed around for the past year from different ministries to absorb employee costs as they can no longer function financially without state support. Now, they want the central government to take full responsibility for the corporation, but a delayed decision by the Finance Ministry has put workers out.

GSMC worker Mohammed Duham has been showing up to work at the same job for the past 14 years. He told the Yemen Times he has had to borrow money these past few months to cover his expenses

because of a lapse in pay.

Although it has always been supervised by government ministries, the GSMC was originally set up to be financially independent from the government and in many governorates it still is. But, Sana'a is slightly different, it was originally supervised by the Ministry of Public Works and Highways. But in 2007, it fell under the supervision of the Ministry of Local Administration. Most recently, it fell under the capital secretariat's jurisdiction, who were initially paying the salaries of workers at the beginning of the year



but stopped in April.

The GSMC's 632 workers in Sana'a are demanding the government officially absorb the corporation and want the Finance Ministry to take responsibility for staff salaries. Workers say job security for them means government jobs.

The Cabinet has agreed to the workers' demands and gave orders in May to the Finance Ministry to allocate a budget for absorbing the corporation.

But, the Finance Ministry says it is already overburdened, and opposes adding the employees to the government pay-roll. While the government debates its responsibility to the GSMC, the employees say they are the ones suffering and are at a loss as to what to do.

The corporation says it needs YR27 million, \$126,000 monthly, to meet all its expenses, including salaries, electricity bills and contracted cleaners.

The delay and the unpaid salaries has made workers unmotivated, said Ahmed Edrees, the corporation's director for the Sana'a branch, and it's compromising hygiene and putting the public's health at risk. While workers continue to show up, they do so half-heartedly and some not at all.

"Bones and carcasses pile up while cleaners' wages are delayed. This situation [here] is very awful," said Wael Al-Domani, the deputy head of a GSMC's factory.

According to law, animals are required to be taken to the GSMC to be inspected and slaughtered. There is a central slaughterhouse and 12 other branches of GSMC in Sana'a. Each branch is responsible for all the animals raised for slaughter in their area. Each animal is supposed to be inspected and slaughtered at the GSMC and returned to owners to be butchered and sold.

On average, 80 animals are slaughtered daily at the central



The nation relies on the General Slaughterhouse and Meat Markets Corporation to provide slaughtering facilities for Yemen's farmers, but if unpaid wages continue any longer, officials say it may have to shut down.

slaughterhouse. Those animals are then returned to the owners.

In addition to YR27 million needed to cover its monthly expenses, the corporation also has YR97 million in accumulated debts.

Like his employer, Duham remains riddled in debt.

"I found it necessary to borrow money. I keep expecting to receive my salary, but so far, have not been paid," he said.

In a little notebook, Duham has scribbled down all his debts.

"My salary is YR30,000. When it [finally] comes, it will go in the blink of an eye," he said.

Duham and other employees filed a lawsuit against the Finance

Ministry in April. The employees have also called for bonuses, saying they haven't received any since 2005.

Anwar Al-Sha'ri, the head of the butchers syndicate, told the Yemen Times that the syndicate held a meeting on Sept. 10 and invited the Finance Ministry. The ministry did not attend, he said.

Finance Ministry budget deputy Ameen Al-Mohamadi said the ministry has supported the corporation for an entire year and that it is not in a position to hand over YR27 million a month given the fragile state of Yemen's economy.

"This corporation should run as it was run in the past, and it should be

responsible for itself," Al-Mohamadi said. "So people leading this corporation have to find solutions and get back to where they were."

Al-Mohamadi is afraid that if the Sana'a branches are absorbed into the government budget, branches from around the country will demand the same.

Corporation workers are nearing their fourth month without salaries. Whatever the solution, it must come soon.

"My salary is my family's [only source of income], it is my livelihood. It keeps me and my children alive. Without it, we are desperate and feel insecure. We deserve our salaries," Duham said.



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# New-look emergency sanitation

Even where there is a good product in the warehouse—like the Nag Magic, specially designed, made-in-India plastic latrine slab—Oxfam's public health engineering team fret that it could be better. The Nag Magic slab is easy to install, with fixings included for skewering it into the ground, and it stacks neatly to go on pallets, but is still quite heavy. Could it be lighter, reducing air freight costs? And although it's not expensive - just \$46 delivered from India to Oxfam's warehouse in rural Oxfordshire - could it be even cheaper? Pressure on costs is relentless.

The designers, engineers, materials specialists and manufacturers who gathered in Oxford for the brainstorming session were given four design challenges often encountered in the early days of an emergency. First, a better latrine superstructure - folding or flat-pack - to give people privacy and dignity. Then, cheap, lightweight trench linings to hold back sandy or waterlogged soil. And a hygienic tap for family water containers to encourage hand-washing. And, finally, a better design for the raised latrines that have to be used when it's not possible to build traditional latrine pits to contain the waste.

The need for better above-ground latrines was brought into focus by a recent spate of emergencies in urban situations. Andy Bastable, Oxfam's Head of Water and Sanitation and engineering coordinator leading

the design day, says the demand is only going to increase. "As we move to 2035," he told IRIN, "when [most of the world's] population is supposed to be living in urban areas and there's likely to be an increase in severe weather events, we are going to have more urban and peri-urban type disasters. Dealing with water and sanitation in an urban environment is quite different and requires different skills. It is doable, but it requires a different mindset."

#### Problems on the ground

Karine Deniel, an emergency response expert, saw the problems on the ground in Haiti. "It was impossible to dig because of the land ownership or because of the concrete," she says. "So the only solution we could give was communal latrines and chemical latrines, which people weren't used to using and were very expensive. And you can de-sludge, but where do you put the contents?"

**'When [most of the world's] population is supposed to be living in urban areas and there's likely to be an increase in severe weather events, we are going to have more urban and peri-urban type disasters'**

Some Design Day participants tackled de-sludging issues and came up with innovative ways of drying out the waste to reduce its volume, like using lenses to focus the sun, or convection currents. Others looked at better designs for the sludge tanks under the latrines. One clever suggestion was to use the kind of plastic wheeliebins used for rubbish collection in many cities. They are easier-

ily available, robust, and stackable, with hinged lids and wheels for easy handling, and can be rapidly cleaned with a pressure hose.

Other groups were thinking up better enclosures, looking into the possibility of using modern styles of camping tents with sprung wire or inflatable supports. There was a lot of scribbling on the backs of envelopes, but Oxfam had provided a professional artist, Danny Burgess, to make the ideas come to life. One group was getting excited about the

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potential of Spraycrete, a sort of spray-on cement. Perhaps you could put up basic pole-and-fabric shelters in the first days of the emergency and then come along a little later with a compressor and spray them with concrete, turning them into more solid structures. You might even be able to dismantle the original frame and use it again for another latrine.

The pit-lining groups were also playing with ideas about new materials. Tubular liners are inherently stronger than rectangular ones, but transporting tubes also means transporting a lot of empty air. So could you use double-walled, inflatable plastic tubes? Even better, could you then fill them with builder's foam, which expands to fill any space and sets rigid? Bastable liked that idea,

but worried about the cost.

Bob Reed, of Loughborough University, who has been working in emergency sanitation for almost forty years, says one fundamental problem is an unwillingness to spend money. "There's still a feeling that sanitation should be cheap," he told IRIN. "But in the UK, for instance, nearly two-thirds of water charges are for sanitation, only one-third is for water supply. It's much more expensive to get rid of human waste than to supply clean water. But institutions and organizations fail to grasp that, and they don't make the resources available that they should."

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When disaster strikes, what are the first things you have to get onto the plane? Shelter materials, blankets, food and medical supplies, and—for sure—the equipment for water supply and sanitation. Yet even Oxfam, known among relief agencies for being "good at drains," does not have as much choice of sanitation supplies in its warehouse as it would like. Its recent "Design a Bog Day" was organized to get some new ideas from outside the humanitarian sector for better emergency sanitation in the future.

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