

Report

Yemen confronts its rapid population growth

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FAO representative speaks to the Yemen Times

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اتصل
على حسابي

لأول مرة في اليمن
خدمة إتصل على حسابي



خدمة إتصل على حسابي ... لجميع مستخدمي الدفع المسبق

- استخدام الخدمة : إطلب 9* يليه رقم الموبايل المطلوب ثم إتصال.
- الخدمة متاحة لجميع خطوط الدفع المسبق ضمن شبكة سبأفون ولا تحتاج إلى تفعيل.
- إمكانية الإتصال حتى بدون رصيد بالنسبة للمتصل، لكن يشترط توفر رصيد كاف لدى الطرف الآخر حتى تتم المكالمة.
- استقبال المكالمات : عند ورود المكالمات سيظهر رقم المتصل على شاشة الموبايل وعند الرد سيستمع المتلقي إلى رسالة صوتية تطلب منه قبول المكالمات على حسابه بالضغط على الرقم 1 أو رفضها بالضغط على الرقم 2 وفي حال كانت المكالمات من رقم موجود في قائمة السماح، سيظهر رقم المتصل على شاشة الموبايل وعند الرد سيتم استقبال المكالمات مباشرة دون إنتظار موافقة الطرف الآخر.
- لإدارة الخدمة من قبل المتلقي، أرسل الأمر المطلوب إلى 999 .

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Government shuts down Adeni newspaper



ECHOES OF THE PAST: The presidential order that stopped the printing of Aden Al-Ghad newspaper late Saturday has brought back memories of the former president, Ali Abdulla Saleh, and his order to shut down Al-Ayam newspaper in 2009. The newspaper's editor-in-chief was reportedly beaten earlier that day.

Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

SANAA, February 24—Dozens of journalists organized a protest on Sunday at an Adeni printing press against a presidential decree suspending the printing of Aden Al-Ghad, a daily newspaper.

Late Saturday, Yemeni authorities ordered the state-run October 14 Printing Press in Aden to suspend printing the newspaper.

The editorial department of Aden Al-Ghad released a statement late Saturday to condemn the action. It said the newspaper was accused by officials of publishing "biased news and supporting the Southern Movement."

The printing press was ordered to stop printing the newspaper, according to the statement.

"We [question] this action because the newspaper adheres to laws and regulations. This step re-

veals what lies in store for southerners. Suspending newspapers may be the first step in series of events that ends with destruction of the south and the killing of southerners," the statement said.

The newspaper's editor-in-chief, Fathi Bin Lazraq, was reportedly beaten on Saturday in the Caltex Roundabout of Aden. The newspaper has accused security forces of being behind the attack.

"The decree to suspend the newspaper came hours after security forces in the governorate attacked the newspaper's editor-in-chief. This is an attack on freedom of expression," the statement said.

The newspaper claims it was suspended because it covers injuries and attacks on southerners.

Bin Lazraq told the Yemen Times that the newspaper has a license from the Ministry of Information which was renewed in October.

"The printing press told us that presidential orders were given to suspend the newspaper and that, were we to print it elsewhere, it would be confiscated."

The orders given by authorities to suspend the newspaper were largely criticized. Former president of South Yemen, Ali Nasser Mohammed, condemned the decree.

"We condemn this move because it violates the values of freedom and democracy and the values the Peaceful Southern Movement has been demanding since 2007," according to a statement made to southern media by Mohammed.

Shafee' Mohammed Al-Abd, deputy head of the financial department at the printing press told the Yemen Times that, "This is an arbitrary decree and the newspaper must not be suspended—even if presidential orders were given. This is a sensitive period."

This action, he said, reminds him of the pre-NDC period and of the former regime, adding that the authorities are supposed to implement the outcomes of the NDC.

Hisham Bashrahil, editor-in-chief of Al-Ayam newspaper, told the Yemen Times that, "The decree is disappointing because we are in the post-NDC period and the government is supposed to convince southerners of the validity of the NDC outcomes. Not suspend newspapers."

"If the newspaper violated the regulations of the press, the authorities should have filed a lawsuit," he said.

In May 2009, former President Ali Abdulla Saleh's government gave orders to suspend the Al-Ayam newspaper in Aden under similar pretexts. The newspaper's guard was arrested at that time and has not been released to date.

Cabinet to shut down 6 private hospitals in Sana'a

Nasser Al-Sakkaf

SANAA, Feb. 24—The Cabinet issued a decision Saturday to shut down six private hospitals in Sana'a. The hospitals were found to be in violation of basic health and technical standards. They were first ordered to be shut down by the Ministry of Public Health and Population in August.

The local council, which oversees the health office in the capital city, refused to implement the decision.

"We contacted the health office in the capital city to reinforce the minister's decision, but the health office did not take action," said Yahia Al-Ghasali, the general manager of the private medical facilities department at the Ministry of Public Health and Population. "The ministry then complained to the Cabinet."

Al-Ghasali said that according to the Cabinet's decision, "The local authority is now accountable for the continuing operation of those seven hospitals. The local authority's role in granting medical licenses has been reduced."

The local authorities in all governorates are in charge of issuing medical licenses for private hospitals. However, the Cabinet's new decree requires that the health ministry be responsible for granting such licenses, according to Al-Ghasali.

The six hospitals are: Al-Madina,

Sharha, Women and Children's Hospital, Al-Sahab, Khalifa Bin Zaid and the Shaheer Al-Shibani Surgery Center. Al-Salam Hospital was also ordered to be shut down in August. It ceased operations a month and a half ago.

"The health office formed committees to implement the closure of these hospitals and to improve standards," said Ali Al-Shuaibi, the deputy manager of the health office in Sana'a.

"Neither the court nor the hospitals have the right to object to the minister's decision," Al-Ghasali said.

The health minister's decision stipulated the closure of the hospitals under the supervision of the health office and the Private Hospitals' Union, according to Al-Shuaibi.

Al-Shuaibi said this decision was based on the criteria included in the 1999 private medical facilities law.

The orders to shut down were issued after the health office and the Private Hospitals' Union paid field visits to evaluate the hospitals in April 2013.

There are currently 62 privately-run health facilities registered in the capital city, three clinics and 59 hospitals, according to the Ministry of Public Health and Population. According to the statement released by the ministry in August, eight of the 62 private hospitals in Sana'a met the ministry's standards.

Presidential committee brokers another peace deal in Amran

Bassam Al-Khameri

SANAA, Feb. 24—Warring parties in Amran governorate reached a tentative peace deal after a presidential committee sent from Sana'a negotiated with armed tribesmen fighting the Houthis, a group of Zaidi Shiites on Friday. Locals say the ceasefire agreement has so far been honored, but many fear the fighting could break out again.

Many high-level officials were a part of the peace delegation, including Sana'a's mayor, Abdulqader Hilal. On Friday the mayor posted on his Facebook page: "By orders of President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi and at the request of Amran

Governor Sheikh Mohammed Hassan Damaj, we join the presidential committee in Amran...We have contacted the two parties and reached an initial agreement."

Local government authorities and both tribal and Houthi leaders signed a peace agreement, also brokered by a presidential committee, in early February after clashes between the Houthis and their opponents killed dozens.

Following the initial peace deal, clashes between the two groups renewed on Thursday, prompting a quick response from the peace delegation the following day.

Local sources say at least two people were killed in the fighting on

Thursday. There are disputed reports regarding the events that lead to the renewed clashes.

A leading Houthi figure, Mohammed Al-Bukhaiti, says politics were behind the fighting, accusing the Islah Party, often seen as a political foe of the Houthis, of encouraging its members to attack Houthis in Amran.

"Militias belonging to the Islah Party attacked the Houthis' Cultural Center in the governorate," he said.

An employee at the Islah Party's Media Department in Amran, Ali Al-Bahila, denied the party's involvement in the fighting.

Ali Al-Madhlaei, a local resident in Amran, says the Houthis initiated the fighting.

"... The Houthis stormed some neighborhoods in the governorate," Al-Madhlaei said.

Al-Bukhaiti and others are optimistic that the presidential committees' latest negotiations will stick.

"We hope we have reached a [lasting] agreement," Al-Bukhaiti said.

The conflict in Amran began with sporadic clashes in June of 2013. Ongoing fighting has led to the displacement of 42,000 people, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs [UNOCHA].

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IN BRIEF

British citizen accused of antiquity smuggling to stand trial

The Public Funds Court in Sana'a will hold its first hearing on Monday for the case of a British citizen suspected of smuggling valuable antiquities out of Yemen, the state-run Saba News Agency reported.

The items in question were intercepted Jan. 13 at Sana'a International Airport.

Yemen moves to create more military courts

The head of the Supreme Judiciary Council, Ali Nasser Salim and the minister of defense, Maj. Gen. Mohamed Nasser Ahmed, announced their intent on Sunday to create new military courts around the country. The only existing military court is currently in Sana'a.

The state-run Saba News Agency reported that officials believe the creation of more military courts will promote the rule of law among military and security personnel in line with the outcomes of the National Dialogue Conference designed to build a more professional military.

Islamic Development Bank grants over \$20 million to Yemen

The Islamic Development Bank granted Yemen \$26.25 million on Sunday for a water project, the local news website newsyemen reported.

Military in Al-Dhale calls for prisoner exchange

Mohammed Al-Hassani

SANA'A, Feb. 24—A meeting was held on Saturday in Sana'a to negotiate an end to the ongoing conflict in Al-Dhale governorate.

Officials told the Yemen Times that the military is prepared to release 22 people affiliated with the Southern Movement currently being held in exchange for 17 soldiers being held by armed men thought to be associated with the Southern Movement.

The meeting has not facilitated the exchange of hostages thus far, according to Col. Moqbel Mothana, a military commander who attended the talks.

The meeting was headed by the defense minister along with the heads of national security and political security. The delegation at the meeting hopes to end the two-month long conflict between the military and armed locals in Al-Dhale.

Fierce clashes have taken place in the city of

Al-Dhale over the past two months, claiming dozens of lives on both sides of the fighting.

The deadliest confrontation occurred on Feb. 18 and left 13 dead and 30 injured.

Clashes between the military and armed locals began in December when a local military brigade shelled a funeral tent in the area, leaving 15 civilians dead.

"The military forces do not only target attackers, but also passersby, homes and villages," said one local. "For about one month, we were unable to go to the local authority headquarters because of the heavy shelling."

In a statement to Akhbar Al-Youm newspaper, Brig. Abdulla Dhaban, commander of the Al-Dhale-based Brigade 33 defended the military. "We were patient. Soldiers have been killed and kidnapped for a year and a half, but we did nothing," he said.

Doctors Without Borders had to suspend its operation in the governorate on Feb. 17 due to the fighting.

Three killed in tribal clashes in Shabwa

Military afraid to confront tribesmen

Nasser Al-Sakkaf

SANA'A, Feb. 24—Three people were killed and four were injured on Saturday in Shabwa governorate in clashes between two armed tribes.

Mubark Lazlam, the assistant security manager of Shabwa governorate told the Yemen Times that security forces were ordered to the scene to end the clashes, but declined to intervene because of threats of retaliation against the soldiers.

"Soldiers fear confronting tribesmen," Lazlam said.

The clashes are between the Al-Dola tribe and the Al-Askr tribe, both from Shabwa. The clashes

have escalated over the past three months.

A personal dispute between two individuals, one from each village, resulted in the death of a member from the Al-Askr tribe.

Elsewhere in Shabwa on Saturday, Col. Ahmed Hashim was assassinated by unidentified armed men on his way back from work.

"We notified all the security checkpoints of the license plate number," Lazlam said.

Nasser Al-Maleesh, the deputy governor of Shabwa told the Yemen Times that, "the security situation gets more complicated each day. Security forces cannot do their job."

The biggest danger, he said, is the spread of armed militants—not only in Shabwa—but in neighboring governorates as well.

Arab Spring complicates shifting demands in health sector

Elizabeth Blunt
Irin.org
First Published Jan. 30

Healthcare needs are changing in the Arab world, and chronic diseases linked to rising prosperity and aging populations are forcing health services to retool, even as the region grapples with political turmoil and uncertainty.

Health in the Arab World: a view from within, a new series of papers put together at the American University in Beirut and published by the medical journal The Lancet, examines these changes and challenges.

The series looks at the situation across the Arab League, including, at one end of the scale, Mauritania, Somalia and Yemen, and at the other end, the wealthy Gulf kingdoms. While there are still countries with high levels of child mortality and malnutrition, the region overall has seen remarkable progress over the past 20 years, according to the Global Burden of Disease data, on which the reports are based.

In 1990, malnutrition was still in the top 10 causes of death in the region. By 2010, it had dropped to number 16. Malaria, measles, tuberculosis and meningitis are also

down. The biggest killers today are two non-communicable conditions—heart disease and stroke.

These, along with diabetes, are responsible for a huge and growing burden of chronic ill-health. While this is true in many regions, the Arab world, especially the middle and higher income countries, has particularly strong risk factors: rich and sugary diets; lack of exercise, particularly among women; and very high rates of smoking.

Six out of the 10 countries with the highest incidence of diabetes in the world are in this region.

"Most of the Arab countries' ministries of health are very good

at treating," said Ali Mokdad, a professor at Seattle's Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation. "But we need to put more effort into prevention... This is a must for us in the Arab world, to engage the medical system in prevention. We will fail if we don't do so."

Women in particular face pressures that militate against healthier lifestyles. "Most women would love to go to [the] gym or play sports," Egyptian healthcare worker Fawzeya Abdel Aizem, 48, told IRIN. "In the past, men used to like overweight women, but nowadays it's the opposite. Cultural norms have changed. Women

think differently. Whether housewives or working women, they're no longer happy about being fat. They would like to go to gym and lose weight. But it's about financial status and time."

At a meeting in London to launch the series, speakers recognized that promoting good health requires action beyond the remit of health ministries. Measures to reduce smoking, for example, are complicated when eight of the countries in the region have state-owned tobacco companies.

Continued on page 14

SUPPLIER PRE QUALIFICATIONS YEAR 2014 – 2015



متطلبات التأهيل للسنة 2014 – 2015م

The Norwegian Refugee Council Office in Yemen invites applications from competent firms for prequalification of suppliers and contractors for supply of goods and services listed below for the year 2014 – 2015. The total cost of the procurement for 2014 will be disclosed upon receipt of the prequalification document.

يدعو مكتب المجلس النرويجي للاجئين في اليمن الشركات المؤهلة لتقديم طلباتها للتأهيل المسبق كموردين ومقاولين معتمدين لتوريد السلع والخدمات المبينة أدناه، وذلك للعام 2014 – 2015 م. والتكلفة الإجمالية للمشتريات للعام 2014 سيتم الإفصاح عنها عند إستلام وثائق طلبات التأهيل.

Category Reference	Category Description
NRC/2014/1	Building and Construction materials, hardware tools, paints and fittings
	Borehole Equipping, Pumps & Installation and Construction and Repair of Elevated Steel Water Tanks
	Borehole Drilling water level indicator (surveying equipment), hand pumps, filters,
	Construction and rehabilitation service
NRC/2014/2	Water equipment and accessories, pipes, pumps, tanks water purification tabs, etc.
	Water Treatment and Testing kits (Chemicals & biological)
NRC/2014/3	Electrical fittings, lighting materials, solar energy and installation services
NRC/2014/4	ICT equipment, computers (desktops and laptop) and accessories,
NRC/2014/5	Office furniture and accommodation supplies equipment
NRC/2014/6	Printing Services that include manuals, booklets, calendars, diaries, T-shirts, uniforms etc.
NRC/2014/7	Relief commodities (Non Food Items blankets, plastic sheeting, Hygiene Kits, kitchen utensils, mattresses, bedding, mosquito nets, Tents and tarpaulins, Showels, wheel barrows, folding tables and chairs, torches, Water bladders, collapsible tanks, other water tanks, water containers (plastic), polymer containers (buckets with or without lid), Water collection items: Hoisting, pipes, taps, valves, cooking utensils and water containers etc.)
	Fire fighting equipment i.e fire extinguishers
NRC/2014/8	Security equipment (Metal scanners, security cameras etc)
NRC/2014/10	Tailoring items (Sewing machines, Sewing machine spare parts, embroidery machines, fabrics etc)
	Tailoring services
NRC/2014/11	Skills training tools and equipment- carpentry, electrical and electronics, masonry, hair and beauty, tailoring and plumbing

Category Reference	Category Description
NRC/2014/12	Generators & Generator Spare parts
NRC/2014/13	Transportation services, truck rental services, vehicle rental and taxi services
NRC/2014/14	Custom Clearing and forwarding services
NRC/2014/15	Security services
NRC/2014/16	Petroleum products (fuel, oil, gas and lubricants)
NRC/2014/17	Detergents, cleaning materials and toiletries
NRC/2014/18	Cleaning services
NRC/2014/19	Advertising services
NRC/2014/20	School Furniture
NRC/2014/21	Accommodation and storage tents
NRC/2014/22	Food processing items (baking ovens, confectionery i.e baking powder, flour, sugar etc
	Food processing training services
NRC/2014/23	Fishing accessories
	Cash for work tools e.g hoes, spades, wheelbarrows, etc
NRC/2014/24	Agricultural inputs (seeds and manure)
	Media: documentary films, photography, etc.
NRC/2014/25	Training institutes (PCM, HR, monitoring & Evaluation, etc.)
	Education materials (white/blackboards, exercise books, play materials (child friendly schools), school bags with contents, writing books, pencils, etc.
NRC/2014/26	Packing services
NRC/2014/27	Communication equipment's (VHF, Thurayas, VSat, GPS, etc)
NRC/2014/28	Guest house furniture: Beds, mattresses, dressing tables, crockery, cooking stoves, fridge, fans, A/Cs, dining tables, sitting set, wardrobe, water dispensers, TVs, microwave, bed-sheets, blankets/duvet, kettle, Gym equipment, etc.

مرجع الصف	وصف الصف
NRC/2014/13	خدمات النقل، وخدمات تأجير الشاحنات، تأجير السيارات وخدمات سيارات الأجرة
NRC/2014/14	خدمات التخليص الجمركي والشحن
NRC/2014/15	خدمات الأمن
NRC/2014/16	المنتجات النفطية (الوقود والنفط والغاز ومواد التشحيم)
NRC/2014/17	المنظفات الصناعية، مواد التنظيف ومستحضرات الحمامات
NRC/2014/18	خدمات النظافة
NRC/2014/19	خدمات الإعلانات
NRC/2014/20	أثاث مدرسي
NRC/2014/21	خيام السكن والتخزين
NRC/2014/22	معدات تجهيز الأغذية (الأفران، المعجنات مثل خميرة الكيك، الدقيق، السكر... الخ)
	خدمات التدريب لتجهيز الأغذية
NRC/2014/23	معدات صيد الاسماك وملحقاتها
	معدات (التنقد مقابل العمل)، مجارف، معلول، عربات يد،... الخ
NRC/2014/24	المستلزمات الزراعية (الحبوب والسماذ)
	خدمات وسائل الإعلام: إنتاج أفلام وثائقية، والتصوير الفوتوغرافي، الخ
NRC/2014/25	مناهج للتدريب (إدارة المشاريع، الموارد البشرية، المتابعة والتقييم... الخ)
	مواد التعليم (سبورات سوداء / بيضاء، كتب التمارين، ألعاب المدرسة صديقة الطفل)، حقائب مدرسية مع كافة مستلزماتها، دفاتر، أقلام رصاص... الخ
NRC/2014/26	خدمات التغليف
NRC/2014/27	أجهزة الاتصالات (VHF, Thurayas, VSAT, GPS, الخ)
NRC/2014/28	الأثاث، أسرة وفرشات والتسريحات والأواني الفخارية، الأفران، التلاجات، المراوح، أجهزة التكييف، طاولات الطعام، وصالات الجلوس، خزائن الملابس، أجهزة تبريد وتوزيع المياه، وأجهزة التلفاز، والميكروويف، ملايات، بطانيات / لحاف، غلاية، ومعدات الرياضة، الخ.

مرجع الصف	وصف الصف
NRC/2014/1	مواد البناء والتشييد، ومعدات الأجهزة، والطلاء والتجهيزات
	تجهيز الآبار، المضخات وتركيب وبناء وإصلاح خزانات المياه الحديدية المرتفعة
NRC/2014/2	حفر آبار المياه مع وجود مؤشر لمستوى منسوب المياه (أجهزة المسح)، المضخات اليدوية والمرشحات
	خدمة البناء وإعادة التأهيل
NRC/2014/3	معدات المياه وملحقاتها، مضخات، أنابيب، خزانات، صنادير ومواد تنقية المياه... الخ
	معدات معالجة المياه وفحصها (كيميائياً وبيولوجياً)
NRC/2014/4	التجهيزات الكهربائية، مواد الإضاءة، الطاقة الشمسية والتركيبة
	أجهزة تكنولوجيا المعلومات، أجهزة كمبيوتر مكتبية (محمول) وملحقاتها
NRC/2014/5	أثاث المكاتب ومعدات ولوازم السكن
	خدمات الصيانة التي تشمل طباعة الأدلة، الكتيبات، التقاويم، المذكرات، الفصصان، الزي الرسمي... الخ
NRC/2014/6	مواد الإغاثة (ال مواد غير الغذائية، البطانيات، الأغذية، البلاستيكية، مستلزمات النظافة، أواني المطبخ والفرش والأسرة والناموسيات والخيام والطرايل والمجارف، عربات اليد، طاولات وكراسي قابلة للطي والمصابيح اليدوية وقرب المياه والخزانات القابلة للطي، وخزانات المياه الأخرى وأوعية حفظ المياه (البلاستيكية) والأوعية المصنوعة من البوليبر (الدلاء مع أو بدون غطاء) وأدوات جمع المياه: أدوات رفع المياه والمواسير والحفريات والمحابس وأواني الطبخ وحوايات المياه الخ.
	معدات مكافحة الحريق، طفايات الحريق
NRC/2014/7	معدات الأمن (ماسحات كشف المعادن، الكاميرات الأمنية،... الخ)
	مستلزمات الخياطة (ماكينات خياطة، قطع غيار ماكينات الخياطة، آلات التطريز، الأقمشة،... الخ)
NRC/2014/8	خدمات الخياطة
	أدوات ومعدات التدريب على المهارات: - التجارة والكهرباء والالكترونيات، والبناء، والشعر والجمال، الخياطة والسباكة
NRC/2014/9	مولدات كهربائية وقطع غيار المولدات

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Fewer African migrants and refugees coming to Yemen

Photo credit: UNHCR-Yemen



Migrants in Haradh District, Hajja Governorate north of Yemen, seeking to cross the border into Saudi Arabia for better economic opportunities.

The continued construction of a wall on the Saudi-Yemeni border, along with new Saudi labor regulations on foreign workers in the kingdom contributed to the lower number of African migrants and refugees making their way to Yemen.

"Increased outreach on the risks of migration in countries of origin, changes in labor laws in Saudi Arabia that have made it more difficult for undocumented workers to find employment there, and efforts within Yemen to deter irregular migration [has contributed to a reduction of migrants coming to Yemen]," according to a report released this month by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA).

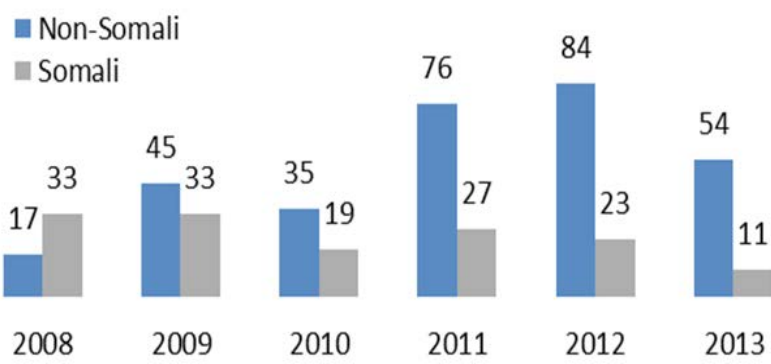
Yemen is often a transit country for migrants, who seek wealthier nations with better job opportunities for their destination.

Ethiopia, a country of origin for many African migrants and refugees who make the trek to Yemen, has tightened enforcement on illegal border crossings in 2013 and has more aggressively gone after traffickers, according to Abdullah Al-Zurqa, the head of the department of deportation at the Migration and Passport Authority.

The actions by the Ethiopian government were taken after an official Ethiopian delegation visited Yemen in July, Al-Zurqa said.

In March 2013, the Saudi government adopted a new amendment to Article 39 of the Saudi labor law that

Numbers of new arrivals from Horn of Africa (in thousands)



Change of Saudi labor law a major factor

Ali Saeed

SANAA, Feb 24—There has been a massive reduction in the number of African migrants and refugees entering Yemen this past year, according to a Yemeni official.

According to the International Organization for Migration, 107,532 African migrants and refugees entered Yemen in 2012. In 2013, this number fell to about 53,000.

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now stipulates that foreigners cannot work for anyone other than their original sponsors to the country. As a result, thousands of Yemeni workers have been deported from the country.

"The decrease would help reduce the burden on Yemen. Yet, we should redouble efforts to address the issues of migrants and refugees who continue to arrive in large numbers," said Johannes Van Der Klaauw, a Yemen UNHCR representative.

"The continuous flow from the Horn of Africa to Yemen adds [an] extra burden on Yemen's already limited resources and has become a regional issue that can be addressed only within a regional context," said Van Der Klaauw.

In Dec. 2013, 244 migrants and refugees arrived on Yemen's shores, an 82 percent decrease from Nov. 2013 and a 96 per cent decrease from Dec. 2012, according to the Regional Mixed Migration Task Force Secretariat.

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Expanding too quickly?

Yemen confronts its rapid population growth

Samar Qaed

Rapid population growth is one of the biggest challenges facing Yemen today, experts say. Numerous studies conducted by international organizations and government institutions outline the negative consequences the nation's swelling population has on public health, the economy and the environment.

Last week the National Population Council in Sana'a in cooperation

with the United Nations Population Fund held a meeting entitled, "Population Programs ...the Reality and Future Challenges," in order to highlight current growth trends in Yemen and ways to cope with it.

Indicators reveal that Yemen's population will continue to grow given that more than 50 percent of Yemeni society is under the age of 18, according to statistics from UNICEF from 2011. The population is expected to nearly double by 2050, according to a survey conducted by the United Nations in 2012.

At the conference, the secretary general of the National Population Council, Dr. Ahmed Burji, warned about the negative impacts of continued rapid population growth in the coming decades. He said Yemen's current trends of internal migration and external immigration—from countries like Somalia and Ethiopia—contributes to the uncontrolled growth of urban centers.

According to the National Population Council's report, Yemen is now paying more attention to addressing population-related issues than it did in the 1990s. In 1991, the government adopted a national population strategy to address its expanding population. The introduction of family planning programs, as part of the strategy, has made a small dent in the population growth rate.

The first census in Yemen was conducted in 1994, after the North and the South unified as one country. According to estimates made since then, Yemeni population indicators have witnessed tangible decreases in terms of population size and growth, birth rate and mortality rate.

However, many of the efforts that were addressing population growth were suspended when the 2011 anti-government uprising broke out. The tumultuous events of the year-long protests largely put a halt to many of these programs as both international and national funding for them shrank.

But some say there is room for praise.

"The population growth rate has declined from 3.7 percent in 1994 to 3.1 in 2004 [when the last official consensus was conducted in

Yemen]. Currently it is estimated at 2.9 percent," said Ahmed Shuja Al-Deen, a professor in the Population Studies Center in Sana'a University, who also presented a working paper during the population conference.

But Shuja Al-Deen was quick to point out that "Although there has been a decrease [in the growth rate], [Yemen's] rate remains one of the highest growth rates in the world as demonstrated by 2012 United Nations figures."

This is troublesome for many. Hesham Sharf, the minister of higher education and scientific research, expressed concern about the population situation in Yemen.

"In the coming 10 years, the government will not be able to meet the population's needs for education, health and services unless a practical strategy is adopted," he said.

Dr. Ahmed Al-Ansi, the minister of public health and population, echoed Sharf's sentiments, saying population growth needs to be a government priority.

"It is absolutely necessary to revisit the national population policy in a way that takes the recent developments and changes in the country into account," said Al-Ansi. "The role of the civil society and the private sector in terms of development and population growth should be reconsidered."

While many working groups at the now concluded National Dialogue Conference (NDC), which was designed to address Yemen's most pressing issues, discussed population growth, it received very little attention and did not make it into any of the groups' final reports that included recommendations of how to tackle challenges.

Proportions of people living in extreme poverty in developing countries has fallen dramatically
United Nations Population Fund



1990



1999



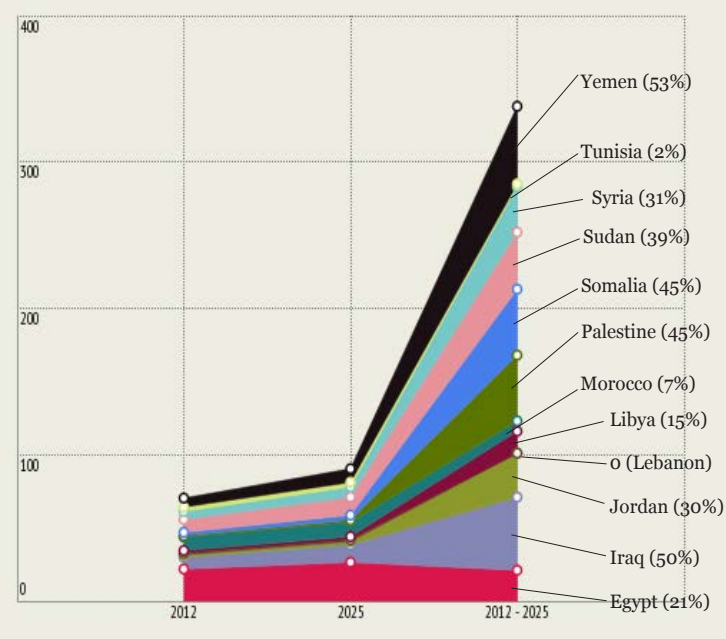
2005



2010

Data source: UN Population Fund / Visualized by the Yemen Times

Projected Female Population Change (Ages 15-49) in Selected Arab Countries



Data source: UN Population Fund / Visualized by the Yemen Times

"This hints that the focus of government in the coming phase will not be on comprehensive development," said Mujahid Ahmed, the media manager for the National Population Council.

According to Ahmed, the government will soon reveal a special two-year action plan that will recommence activities that support a national population policy.

"This plan will include health

and population-related programs—such as family planning," he said.

He added that awareness of population and reproductive issues should continue to be raised, stressing the importance of establishing population-related strategies that are aligned with the country's new administrative divisions that are expected to be implemented after Yemen's yet-to-be drafted constitution is put up for a referendum.



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Is Yemen's revolution defeated?

Atiaf Zaid Alwazir
Aljazeera.com
First Published Feb. 22

In 2011, the colorful tents of Change Square flourished with hope and a dream of a dignified life. Three years later, like the tents, hope of regime change has disappeared for many independent revolutionaries.

While many positive steps have been taken in the past three years, including the official removal of former President Ali Abdulla Saleh from power, the creation of a transitional unity government, and the completion of the National Dialogue Conference (NDC), a complete break with the past is yet to be seen.

On Feb. 21, 2012 on the first anniversary of the Yemeni Revolution, an uncontested "election" brought Saleh's vice president to power, based on the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)'s power transfer agreement. This deal, signed on Nov. 23, 2011, was a great blow to the independent revolutionaries, as it empowered traditional forces over those calling for radical change and cosmetically addressed their demands.

In 2011, prior to this agreement, the regime, that had once neglected the youth, was forced to interact with them, due to their street power, which expanded political bargaining beyond the traditional political elite. Yet the GCC blocked this process, emphasizing instead traditional patronage politics.

Business as usual

The demands of the street extended beyond the removal of the president to include comprehensive change to the entire political structure, which has been the cause of marginalization. Many independent youth felt that the traditional opposition figures who worked side by side with the old regime do not believe in real change and have co-opted the revolution for personal and political gains.

Creating a national unity government, while politically a positive move, meant that both traditional opposition and former ruling party members are in charge of government positions, transpiring in recruitment of government employees based on party loyalties rather than expertise. This marginalized a number of independent qualified technocrats, leaving management of many ministries to those who had no proper knowledge and blocking any reform of government institution, which is a necessary step to break away from the past.

Furthermore, the 2014 budget allocated \$11.3m to the Tribes' Affairs Authority, which will be spent on monthly salaries for tribal leaders. In comparison, as the Yemen Times highlighted, the budget projected for Yemen's Coast Guard Authority is \$7.2m.

The fact that this line item remains in the budget post-revolution demonstrates that the transitional government is not keen on moving away from the patronage system to-

ward a modern civic state on the basis of equal citizenship, social justice, and a plural political system.

According to a Parliamentary report, the same budget did not allocate any funds for the implementation of the NDC recommendations. This has made it difficult for people to trust the government's political will to move forward with the decisions.

The NDC brought together 565 members from various back-

grounds; seven percent of the seats were allocated to independent youth. The 300-page NDC recommendations are significant, and emphasize revolutionary demands of equal citizenship and justice. For example, the fourth recommendation of the state-building working group states, "All citizens shall be equal in rights and duties before the law, without distinction based on sex, race, origin, color, religion, sect, doctrine, opinion, or economic or social standing." Yet the fear is that such recommendations will remain simply ink on paper, and like many laws in Yemen will not be implemented.

While NDC members claimed that these recommendations are "binding", there is no legislative provision that obliges either the government or the outdated parliament to carry them out.

In fact, many do not believe that these recommendations will be implemented, pointing to the "20 points" as an example. Prior to the start of the NDC, the technical committee created to organize the NDC publically recommended a list of 20 points that are meant to rebuild trust between the South, the Houthis, and the government. This was supposed to be completed prior to the NDC, yet even after the end of the NDC, only a few of these points have been implemented. This begs the question: If these simple 20 points cannot be implemented, what will become of the remaining 300 page worth of recommendations?

"If these simple 20 points cannot be implemented, what will become of the remaining 300 page worth of recommendations?"

Another example of lack of implementation lies in the absence of proper compensation for the injured revolutionaries. Despite a presidential decree ordering their treatment, many of them have been neglected and the government has provided little financial and medical support for them.

On Feb. 9, Abdul Jabar Al-Namer, a protester who was shot in the stomach in 2011 died waiting to travel abroad for further medical treatment. Unhappy with this situation, the youth have staged numerous protests and demonstrations in support of their injured fellows, and some of the wounded have gone on hunger strikes. Despite promises to address the situation, no serious action has yet been taken. To date, four lawsuits have been filed by injured revolutionaries and their families, yet there has been no change in the status quo.

Increasing violence

Although the presidential decrees aimed at restructuring the military were bold in their goals, personal loyalties still control the army. In fact, Human Rights Watch reported that President Hadi informed them that "a general issue with the Yemeni military is that each brigade is formed from the same tribe." In his words, it is impossible to "remove a commander who commits an abuse because the commander will simply reject the decision and the brigade will stand by him."

This might explain why the committee setup by President Hadi to

investigate the military attack on a funeral of a member of the Southern Movement in Dhale last December has not yet provided any explanation or charged anyone. This lack of accountability is a natural consequence of the immunity law that provided protection for members of the former regime and enshrined this culture of impunity.

Violence by security institutions has continued against peaceful protesters, even on the anniversary of President Hadi's "election". On Feb. 21, security forces shot at a large rally in Aden where people demonstrated against the outcomes of the NDC and called for secession. At the same time in the north, violent clashes between the Houthis, Salafis and tribal militias have persisted over the past months.

The NDC clearly did not succeed in addressing the main issues in the south or in the north.

There is no doubt that real change will take many years, yet the foundations need to be built correctly. With no real reform of government institutions, no rule of law, deteriorating economy and a catastrophic humanitarian situation, conflicts throughout Yemen have dramatically increased. Three years after the Yemeni revolution, we are left asking ourselves: Can the Yemen model really succeed? And can there be peace without justice?

Atiaf Zaid Alwazir is a researcher and blogger based in Sanaa. She is also a co-founder of the media advocacy group SupportYemen.

Can the six regions save Yemen from collapse?

Mustapha Al Noman
Aawsat.net
First Published Feb. 20

Before the start of the comprehensive National Dialogue Conference in Yemen, some members of the technical committee insisted on beginning with measures to build confidence in the south and normalize the situation in Sa'ada. These measures would provide a means to carry out the GCC agreement, from which the idea to hold the Mövenpick sessions emerged. This was done with the aim of building a modern state or, as some call it, a "New Yemen." This particular name was chosen despite it being the same name promoted by Yemen's former president, Ali Abdulla Saleh, and his advisers in the 2006 elections and that failed to live up to expectations. However, the original New Yemen initiative did serve as a catalyst for young people to pour out into public squares and demand his departure, which landed his advisers in the opposition camp.

The conference ended with most participants in support of the final document. They said they were pleased with it, and a vote showed the vast majority was indeed in favor of the final outcome. The focus later shifted to the Regions Committee, which was expected to effectively nullify the portion of the final document related to the south. The Houthis, a Zaydi insurgent group, care little about the decrees

of committee members and of U.N. Envoy Jamal Benomar; they impose their plans as they wish despite their loud protest of the Committee's final decisions. This represents continuity with the Houthis' style, in which they appear to cooperate with other groups while still solidifying their position in the capital. It is strange that Benomar did not dare talk about the near-daily battles on the outskirts of the capital, nor did he mention them in any of his numerous statements to belligerents, or consider it an obstacle to implementing the Gulf Initiative or the Security Council resolutions. He continued to insist on discussing his personal rivalry with a number of politicians belonging to the General People's Congress, and he curiously insisted on imposing sanctions on some of its leaders.

Less than two weeks after its formation, the Committee reached a decision to divide the country. This sparked confusion among party representatives, most notably those hailing from the Socialist Party and the Southern Movement, known as Al-Hirak, even though the Socialist Party representative had signed the document. The Socialist Party quickly announced that they rejected the outcome, and the representative provided an unconvincing explanation for his withdrawal. He said he had made his reservations known, expressing his satisfaction that the other parties had understood his reticence. He added that his party would not stop cooperating with the agreement and would

seek to implement it. This is an example of what political parties become when individuals act on their own, mirroring their parties in situations inconsistent with the wishes of the membership and stated party policies. The second party, Al-Hirak, has been subverted and its representatives replaced.

Now the issue lies in convincing southerners of the Regional Committee to allow the map to be redrawn to match how it was when the British departed in November 1976.

In their current forms, the regions are not viable. Some lack a people, some have no economic resources (including the capital, Sana'a, which will remain autonomous), and nearly one third of the population of Yemen lives in one of the regions, a fourth boasts all the nation's wealth, and a fifth, Aden, is nothing but a port. Is it even possible to have conducted studies regarding the efficient design of the regions in the time it took the committee to craft them? What are the economics of these regions and what are the sources of their viability?

The delineation of the regions first surfaced in a memorandum of agreement during the war-torn summer of 1994. Instead of beginning to mend the destructive psychological and physical effects of war, the ruling party in Sana'a and its new southern allies (at the time) aimed to settle old scores and marginalize the defeated. It is unacceptable to impose outcomes that clearly do

not enjoy majority approval in the south; this is no secret. However, those handling Sana'a's power and money continue to exercise their paternalism over everyone and impose coercive solutions.

I am of the conviction that we must not live deluded by high-minded rhetoric. The former president relied on such rhetoric for many years, and confessed as much to everyone close to him during his rule. However, the inevitable end lies ahead: As the saying goes, "By others' faults, wise men learn." It is true that it is difficult, perhaps even impossible, to reach a consensus on the crucial issues; they must be analyzed objectively and the discussion must encompass the basics. In my opinion, none of this has been achieved, because those who proposed and agreed and signed the agreements represented only a tiny portion of stakeholders. They worked with the mentality of a government employee that fears losing his job. The Houthis, however, are the strongest, most organized and most influential group, and they refused to sign. They truly represented those not present. The socialist representative signed with a trembling hand, imagining himself the leader of a party whose members would not win any seats during the upcoming elections. I spoke with one person among those passionate about the regions document, and he said to me, "Forms were distributed to the public as a means for them to express their desires, and the vote was carried out by a show of hands."

"The socialist representative signed with a trembling hand, imagining himself the leader of a party whose members would not win any seats during the upcoming elections."

I cannot imagine that dividing the nation using feedback from forms and a show of hands is the means by which the people of Yemen will achieve victory in both the south and the north.

Dividing the south is a mistake that will not contribute to emotional or psychological stability, not to mention economic stability, given the prohibitive financial cost of creating regions in geographic areas lacking sources of economic or ad-

ministrative development. It would have been useful if the Regions Committee explained why and how this issue was resolved with blazing speed—it resembled the division of a man's inheritance where his friends divide up his belongings before the rightful heirs take note. It would also have been useful if the standards the decision was based on were announced, which could have potentially reduced the stridency of the opposition of those involved.

With time, Sana'a will lose all that remains of its ability to control what happens outside its geographical boundaries, which will provide an opportunity for armed groups to take root. Terrorist organizations that have capitalized off of Yemen's tumultuous past and spread throughout Yemen will again be the prime beneficiary of this lack of authoritative control. The south will be split in a way that threatens stability. Moreover, the statutes on the north the Committee hastened to pass will further deepen sectarianism and place control squarely in the hands of those with power. International resolutions will be useless and incapable of holding officials accountable.

Many say that I am not optimistic, and this is true. The issue will not be resolved by simply wishing things were better and failing to face the reality on the ground.

Mustapha Al Noman is a Yemeni politician who serves as the country's ambassador to Spain.

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World Bank senior operations officer:

Yemen has to fulfill its part, but so do donors

Story and photo by
Nadia Al-Sakkaf

An organization of established Yemeni and non-Yemeni professionals was created last year with the sole purpose of accelerating delivery and absorption of aid pledges during Yemen's transition. This organization, known as the Executive Bureau, will produce its first evaluation report next month on the fulfillment of the Mutual Accountability Framework (MAF) by the Yemeni government and the international community.

World Bank senior operations officer and the person responsible for managing the support project for the Executive Bureau, Nabil Shaiban, explained that much has been done and that he is optimistic about the road ahead.

When Yemen went to the donors conference in Riyadh in September 2012, it did not go empty handed.

It went with a list of economic

priorities and projects to be funded. The Yemeni government was prepared and focused on what Yemen needs. In return, the international committee had its list of reforms and steps it needed the Yemeni government to take before it could hand over large sums of money.

The Mutual Accountability Framework resulting from this donors' conference laid the foundation for a historic agreement between Yemen and its donors.

A total of \$7.9 billion dollars was pledged for Yemen's transitional stability and development, more than half coming from Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

"Yemen has never had so much sustained commitment and support like today," Shaiban said. "It is the first time we have around \$8 billion in pledges and the first time we have such strong involvement of the GCC countries."

Yet, over a year and a half after the pledges made in Riyadh, much of the aid has still not come through. The Yemeni government has not yet

proven itself capable of absorbing the funds and communicating effectively with donors, conditions the government has agreed to.

The Executive Bureau provides technical support for the government to address the constraints it faces so it can manage the aid portfolio.

Shaiban categorizes these constraints into two issues: The inability to coordinate, facilitate, monitor and report on aid, and the lack of capacity to absorb and manage projects. He believes that it is ultimately about human resources and therefore, the Executive Bureau has created a strategy to provide technical support to the Yemeni government to enable it to fulfill the Public Investment Plan (PIP) on time.

It is not only the government that is lagging behind—there are a number of donors who have not yet delivered their pledged support to Yemen.

"We will have a meeting with donors and the Yemeni government in March in Sana'a to report on the progress of six MAF pillars," Shaiban said.

The pillars of the MAF were proposed namely on the basis of the Transitional Program for Stabilization and Development (2012-2014) and its Resources Summary Matrix.

The pillars are: to coherently work with the priorities of the budget, the Public Investment Plan (PIP) and the Transitional Program for Stabilization and Development, creating employment opportunities particularly for youth and women, good governance, rule of law and human rights, increasing effectiveness of key service sectors and partnering with the private sector,

meeting emergency humanitarian and material needs, delivering basic services to citizens and finally, civil society empowerment and partnership.

MAF proposes key actions of mutual accountability to be carried out by the government and donors during the transitional period.

Shaiban believes that MAF could very much be Yemen's roadmap to economic salvation especially since it is the first time a Yemeni government has been able to commit all pledges made in New York and Riyadh to projects identified in the economic transition plan.

In other words, the Yemeni government has given a clear map of where each and every pledged fund will go. Now it has to capitalize, optimize and manage these resources with the help of the Executive Bureau.

Not only will the bureau help the Yemeni government make use of the funds for the country's benefit, it must also ensure that this happens in a public, transparent manner. A website in Arabic will be created and information will be regularly posted, describing where donor money has gone and how.

"It will be a transparent, efficient process. You want change? This is change," said Shaiban.

Shaiban said that the World Bank is strongly committed to support Yemen, and has committed over \$400 million to labor intensive projects, and—equally important, leads the donor community in policy formation and dialogue.

"Attention should be on the economy, enough [with the] politics. At the end of the day, people want jobs and livelihoods," Shaiban said.

He wants decision makers to es-



"Attention should be on the economy, enough [with the] politics. At the end of the day, people want jobs and livelihoods," according to World Bank senior operations officer Nabil Shaiban.

establish a dedicated economic team within the Cabinet, led by a deputy prime minister for economic affairs. The Yemeni government urgently needs to introduce champions of economic reform, he said,

men and women who are highly professional and are accountable to the public.

"The time is right for president Hadi to choose the right people," he said.

The Executive Bureau in a snapshot

The Executive Bureau for the Acceleration of Aid Absorption and Support for Policy Reforms was established by a presidential decree in February 2013. It is mandated to catalyze technical assistance and regional and international expertise and capacity building for the government.

It has two main aims: To accelerate the absorption of donor aid pledges and support the preparation and implementation of donor-funded projects and to support the government in the formulation and implementation of policy reforms outlined in the Mutual Accountability Framework (MAF).

Managed by the World Bank, the bureau is funded by the UK, USAID and DANIDA.

The bureau is overseen by a 16-member board of directors (a mini cabinet) with representation from the private sector and CSOs.

The World Bank and the government of Yemen are currently in the process of identifying and selecting a national director to manage the Executive Bureau. The bureau is already functional with a top team of Yemeni professionals.

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What Libya can learn from Yemen

Danya Greenfield

Libya-watchers should be encouraged by the initiation of the country's National Dialogue last month and an election date set for the constitution-making body on February 20, both of which give much-needed positive momentum to lift Libya out of the cycle of violence and recrimination. The National Dialogue Preparatory Commission (NDPC) and its seventy-five member advisory body are making critical decisions that could set the dialogue up for success, or if managed badly, sow the seeds of further unrest. While Libya's context is unique, relevant parallels with Yemen's National Dialogue, which just concluded on January 25, provide both valuable lessons and warning signals.

The internationally-backed agreement that put an end to months of fighting in 2011 in Yemen mandated an inclusive national dialogue to address the underlying issues that led to the popular uprising—the lack of functioning government, demands for independence and regional autonomy, guaranteeing rights and freedoms, reducing the centralization of power, eliminating corruption, and others. After months of preparation and repeated delays, Yemen's National Dialogue Conference (NDC) ultimately agreed to 1400 articles and recommendations, some of which will now be incorporated in a constitution to be drafted in the coming months. As with Libya, creating a framework for the key actors in Yemen to stop fighting and sit together peacefully in dialogue is in itself a notable achievement. The real gains will rest on the ability of Yemen's leaders and institutions to actually implement the outcome, but in the meantime, their experience can highlight some critical lessons as Libya treads similar waters.

Key Lessons from Yemen's National Dialogue:

- Prioritize inclusiveness.** For Libya, as for Yemen, instituting a process that is seen as credible, legitimate, and representative—and getting the right people around the table to agree to a non-violent, political process—is perhaps more important than what the national charter will actually say. Libya's preparatory commission intends to conduct public outreach to find out what issues are most important to address among citizens and to utilize the seventy-five member advisory group in these consultations. But security and economic concerns add pressure to move quickly and to keep the process in step with the constitution-drafting timetable. Allowing sufficient time for substantive outreach—not just paying lip service or conducting some superficial meetings—cannot be overemphasized.
- In Yemen, the initial plan was that the National Dialogue members would conduct field visits to listen to the concerns and gather input from citizens outside the capital, as well as transmitting information about what was happening inside the dialogue to a broader audience. However, this was never fully implemented, both for security, cost, and time issues, and a significant opportunity was lost. Few people outside urban areas had any real knowledge of what was happening in the “Republic of the Movenpick” (dubbed as such for the swank hotel where the dialogue was held), and it was primarily viewed as an elite-dominated exercise that consumed the capital city for a year and a half, but had very little relevance elsewhere. Libya's advisory group for the dialogue can serve as two-way ambassadors, but that mandate should be clear-

ly defined at the outset. A strategy should be developed for public consultation and communication throughout the dialogue process, and resources should be made available to facilitate that work.

- Ensure transparency and active communication.** The perceived transparency of the process will be just as important in determining success as the actual agreements reached upon conclusion. The value of the dialogue will be felt not only through the buy-in of those sitting around the table, but of the constituencies they represent. Libya's dialogue could create a unifying national identity and vision for the future, but only if a broad number of people are aware of what is underway and have opportunities to participate. Engaging diverse constituencies will require creativity in Libya's tense security environment, but effective avenues could include: televising dialogue sessions, social media, radio programming, youth-led outreach, town-hall meetings, street theatre, etc. This will be particularly important in Libya's fragmented political environment.

Yemen's National Dialogue Conference set up an active website, twitter feed, and media outreach strategy. Their leadership gave frequent interviews and comments to the press, which helped the Yemeni public and the international community keep up-to-date in a fluid and highly politicized environment. While valuable, this type of communication only goes so far in a country with extremely low internet usage rates. Yemen needed more active outreach outside Sana'a into various cities and towns around the country by the dialogue members, political parties, and other movements represented. Several NGOs convened town-hall meetings and outreach tents, but survey

research demonstrated that even with these efforts, few people had any idea what was actually being discussed.

- Define a clear decision-making process.** In Yemen, a legal framework that set the parameters for the dialogue and empowered the dialogue's preparatory committee to take decisions contributed significantly to its success. With UN assistance, the preparatory committee labored over drafting elaborate rules and procedures (92 pages in total), which delineated how decisions would be made. The committee had to reach consensus on each and every point, and while this was a painful process at the time, it was effort well-spent and set up a clear process to overcome inevitable impasses.

Reflecting on her experience, Cathy Shin, former advisor to UN Envoy to Yemen Jamal Benomar, noted, “While it took time for the preparatory committee to come together, it was guided by its very specific mandate to come out with precise outputs (the size of the delegation, drafting procedure rules, role of international community, and media budget). Each decision was made in a series of discussions based on options, and they did not come to a final decision until consensus was reached. This negotiation was not an easy process, but a genuine one.”

- Set a timetable, but with flexibility.** There is a tenuous balance between the urgency of moving forward versus time needed for consensus. Yemen faced this predicament, and Libya's precarious security situation necessitates quick action. Yet shortchanging this initial phase would mean rushing to meet artificial deadlines, undercutting the opportunity for consensus-building and undermining the very objective of the exercise. Libya's preparatory

committee has outlined a three-month timeframe to complete the first phase of the dialogue, which does not seem realistic given what they need to achieve.

The NDPC should anticipate that the process of selecting the 200-250 members will take longer than initially proposed. In Yemen, the preparatory committee formulated an elaborate allocation of delegates from each of the primary political parties and other formal political movements (such as the Houthis in the north and the Herak in the south), representatives of independent youth, women, and civil society—but making those final decisions took months longer than anticipated. Even if expedited slightly, the time spent helped develop consensus within the preparatory committee. Despite the complex preparations, Yemeni President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi ultimately had to weigh in on the final selection; since he has enjoys a high level of credibility, his decisions were accepted. Without such a figure in Libya, clearly defining a transparent selection process and ensuring acceptance of its members, could be the difference between success and failure.

This inherent tension will be ever-present in Libya's dialogue, but some flexibility must be allowed in the timetable to ensure that sufficient confidence-building measures are incorporated. Manal Omar, Associate Vice President for Middle East and Africa at the US Institute for Peace, noted that “Libya's decision-making thus far has been dominated by the political necessity of moving quickly, but this has undercut the GNC and other institutions because the mandate or authority (like that of the GNC president) was not clearly defined at the outset, consensus was not

reached, and ultimately they had to return to the drawing board.” Rather than setting unreasonable timelines that will necessitate an extension later, Libyans should anticipate and incorporate into their planning the additional time needed for consensus-building and inclusive consultation that will be necessary to reach decisions that will be accepted by key elites, security forces, and the population—a kind of temporal pressure valve.

The first phase in Libya's dialogue hopes to formally commit the major players to the fundamental idea of a unified, peaceful future for the country—particularly those responsible for destabilizing the political and security environment—including militia forces, separatist groups, and other potential spoilers. As such, the preparatory phase must ensure that the effort has the broadest possible buy-in among various stakeholders throughout the country. In an environment where most Libyans lack trust in the government, the prime minister, and the General National Congress (GNC), this process can serve as a unifying backbone to facilitate necessary compromise and foster some momentum. If Libya's powerbrokers and stakeholders can muster the requisite political will and leadership, the National Dialogue could lead the country in the right direction toward a more peaceful, stable, and democratic future.

Danya Greenfield is the acting director of the Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East at the Atlantic Council and the co-chair of the Yemen Policy Initiative, a joint effort of the Atlantic Council and the Project on Middle East Democracy.

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الأمم المتحدة تكرم الشركات الراعية لحملة (دع العالم يعرف ماتريد)

UN awards sponsors of "My World Campaign"



A good education is the top development priority says 121,000 people in Yemen. Yemenis have voted on development priorities through the MY World Survey, the United Nations' survey for a better world. A second phase of the campaign is launched today in Sana'a, all mobile phone subscribers can now call 2015 for free and tell the world what they want.

SANA'A FEBRUARY 19, 2014

Over the last 6 months, the United Nations has worked with partners in Yemen to get inputs to the global debate to define future development priorities.

"The My World is a unique and groundbreaking global survey," says Mr. Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, UN Resident Coordinator in Yemen. "121,000 votes are already gathered from Yemen and are ambitious when we now, along with our valuable partners, aim at getting the Yemeni votes the highest in the world in relation to population," he said.

17,000 of these votes were collected offline with the help of volunteers in every single governorate in Yemen. Thanks to partners as Y telecom, Menavas and Yemen 21 Forum, 102,683 have been submitted by Y subscribers calling 2015 for free. Now, Yemen Mobile, MTN and Sabafon are joining the efforts and offer the same service to their subscribers. Anyone can now call 2015 for free and participate. The findings will inform the UN Secretary General and the world leaders when deciding on the next set of development goals.

Both men and women consider a good education significant; more

than two thirds have rated it as one of their top development priorities. Education is followed by 'better job opportunities'. Children under 15 consider education the most important development priority affecting their lives. Secondly, rather than job opportunities, they rate 'better healthcare' as a priority. Voters above the age of 61 rate a good education highest, followed by better healthcare and affordable and nutritious food. The third most pressing development priority, as seen by voters, is 'a responsive government'.

"When I see and hear what people really care about, I see that Yemenis are, just like me and my own family, concerned about concrete things that affect our lives and enables us to be good fathers, mothers, sisters and brothers. Respondents from Sa'ada and Socotra, from Al-Mahrah and from Hodeida, all share the same views on development priorities. I believe that working together, with commitment to achieve these aspirations, Yemen will raise from this challenging time to a prosperous future, just like Yemen has been known throughout history," said Mr. Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed.

التعليم الجيد هو الأولوية التنموية الأولى حسب رأي ١٢١,٠٠٠ شخص في اليمن. لقد صوت اليمنيون على الأولويات التنموية من خلال الاستقصاء المسمى «عالمي» وهو الاستقصاء الذي تنفذه الأمم المتحدة من أجل عالم أفضل. تم إطلاق الحملة الثانية اليوم في صنعاء وبإمكان كافة مشتركي الهواتف النقالة الاتصال الآن على رقم ٢٠١٥ مجاناً لإيصال صوتهم إلى العالم.

صنعاء ١٩ فبراير ٢٠١٤ م

لما في ذلك من أهمية بالغة في إعادة صياغة أهداف الألفية على نحو يمثل أولويات المواطن اليمني ويعبر عن احتياجاته الحقيقية خاصة في ظل التحولات التي تؤسس ليمن جديد.

يعتبر كل من الرجال والنساء أن التعليم الجيد يعد أولوية بالنسبة لهم حيث أشار أكثر من ثلثي المصوتين إلى أن التعليم يعد الأولوية التنموية القصوى بالنسبة لهم ويلي التعليم أولوية فرص العمل المناسبة. يعتبر الأطفال دون سن ١٥ عاماً أن التعليم هو الأولوية التنموية الأكثر أهمية والتي تؤثر على حياتهم ويأتي في المرتبة الثانية بالنسبة للأطفال أولوية الرعاية الصحية الأفضل. بينما بالنسبة للمصوتين فوق سن ٦١ عاماً يأتي التعليم باعتباره الأولوية الأولى وتليه الرعاية الصحية الأفضل والغذاء الرخيص والمغذي. تأتي أولوية الحكومة المستجيبة باعتبارها الأولوية الثالثة الأكثر أهمية بالنسبة للمصوتين.

يقول السيد إسماعيل ولد الشيخ أحمد عندما أرى وأسمع ما هي الأولويات الحقيقية للناس أرى أن اليمنيين مثلهم مثل أسرتي معنيين بالأشياء الملموسة التي تؤثر على حياتنا والتي تمكننا من أن نصبح آباء وأمهات وأخوات وأخوة أفضل. المحبيين من صدقة وسقطرى ومن المهرة ومن الجديدة جميعهم يتشاطرون في نفس وجهات النظر حول أولويات التنمية. اعتقد أنه من خلال العمل المشترك والالتزام الحقيقي لتحقيق هذه التطلعات فإن اليمن سوف تنتقل من هذه الفترة الصعبة إلى مستقبل مشرق كما كانت عليه اليمن على مر العصور.

خلال الأشهر الستة الماضية عملت الأمم المتحدة مع الشركاء في اليمن للحصول على مداخلات للنقاش العالمي حول تحديد أولويات التنمية في المستقبل.

يقول السيد إسماعيل ولد الشيخ أحمد المنسق المقيم للأمم المتحدة في اليمن أن «الاستقصاء العالمي تحت مسمى عالمي، هو استقصاء فريد وحديث من نوعه على مستوى العالم. يضيف السيد إسماعيل بالقول أنه قد تم تجميع ١٢١,٠٠٠ صوت من مختلف أنحاء اليمن ويحدونا الطموح مع شركائنا الراعين في أن نحقق أعلى نسبة تصويت في اليمن مقارنة بعدد السكان».

تم تجميع ١٧,٠٠٠ صوت من هذه الأصوات بدون الإنترنت بمساعدة متطوعين في كل محافظة من محافظات اليمن والفضل في ذلك يعود لشركائنا وأي للاتصالات ومينافاس ومندى اليمن القرن الحادي والعشرين في تجميع ١٠٢,٦٨٣ صوتاً من مشتركى وأي الذين اتصلوا برقم ٢٠١٥. ولأن تتضمن يمن موبايل وام تي إن وسابافون إلى هذه الجهود وتقديم نفس الخدمات لمستخدميها. بإمكان أي شخص الاتصال الآن على رقم ٢٠١٥ مجاناً والمشاركة. سوف يتم رفع هذه النتائج إلى الأمين العام للأمم المتحدة وقادة العالم من أجل اتخاذ القرارات حول المجموعة القادمة من الأهداف التنموية.

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Visually impaired students receive subsidized computers



The society hopes to eventually distribute a laptop to every student and teacher in the association. Each student contributed YR30,000 (about \$150) towards their computer.

Dares Al-Badani

The Yemeni Society for the Caring and Rehabilitation of the Blind distributed on Thursday 22 laptops to visually impaired students who belong to the association, heavily subsidizing each computer.

Prior to receiving the laptops, the association trained the students on how to use them. At the end of the training, every student paid YR30,000 (about \$150) towards their computer. The association covered YR56,000 of the cost for each computer.

The society hopes to eventually distribute a laptop to every student and teacher in the association.

Last year, the society distributed 32 laptops to the blind in cooperation with Al-Aman Foundation for the Care of Blind Women. It was the first phase of the program.

At the distribution of the laptops, a number of donors were in attendance.

"We need these laptops particularly at university. We need them to do research and to complete assignments. We want to be good students," said Najm Al-Deen Sinan, a recipient of one of the subsidized laptops.

According to the 2004 census figures, there are 72,000 visually impaired people in Yemen. The secretary general of the association, Hadi Al-Sarabi, believes that figure is now upwards of 120,000 individuals.

"This program is possible because of our donors, the association and our students. We are hopeful that every blind student will own a laptop," Al-Sarabi said.

The main headquarters of the association, located in Sana'a, cares for 1,200 visually impaired people and provides them with educational programs and assistance. The association has 11 other branches across the country.

Only 30 percent of Yemeni families consume iodized salt

Samar Qaed

Yemeni health officials met in Sana'a last month to discuss the core problems related to the salt industry in Yemen. One major problem was iodine deficiency in salt, according to health officials. A lack of iodine can cause brain damage and a host of other health problems.

In 1996, the government regulated the iodine content in salt, mandating a minimum iodine content of 40 parts per million (ppm). According to a report from the Ministry of Health and Population, from 1996 until the end of 2010, the percentage of Yemeni families who consume iodized salt did not exceed 30 percent. The percentage of families who consume salt has declined since 2010, according to the latest report published by the ministry.

The World Health Organization (WHO) says each individual should consume about 150 to 250 micrograms of iodine per day. In 1991, both the WHO and UNICEF recommended adding iodine to Yemeni salt as an effective means to ensure iodine is part of one's diet.

Mawfaq Al-Hitari, the nutrition officer at the health ministry, said, "The situation is getting further complicated because salt is often sold in bags with fake labels. Currently, salt is produced using windmills that are not adequately equipped for the production of properly iodized salt," he said. "The absence of a professional licensing and regulatory authority that would organize and develop the salt industry has exacerbated the problem."

Iodine deficiency is also associ-



The Consumer Protection Association said local markets are inundated with salt labels that say iodine is contained, but the salt does not meet certain specifications and standards.

ated with increases in miscarriages, higher incidences of stillbirths, and infant mortality. Children born to mothers who have iodine deficiencies can suffer from brain damage, low IQs, and thyroid gland-related problems, according to UNICEF.

Yaseen Al-Tameemi, a researcher specializing in environmental affairs and consumer protection emphasized the importance of this micronutrient to successful human development.

The Consumer Protection Association said local markets are inundated with salt labels that say iodine is contained, but the salt does not meet certain specifications and standards. The association said that Yemeni salt also sometimes

contains poisonous elements— heavy metals such as arsenic, lead and cadmium—which can cause additional health problems, including kidney failure and cancer.

In late 2013, the Ministry of Public Health and Population and the Ministry of Trade and Industry established a committee of specialists to inspect salt mines and production facilities. Abdulrahman Shaiban, the deputy minister of industry and trade, said they found many defects in the salt production process.

"The salt is not refined. It is ground with impurities. This is harmful to health," said Shaiban.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry is preparing a salt production strategy plan. This plan will detail all of the standards that should be met in the salt production process.

Shaiban said different government bodies have been collaborating to develop procedures that will improve the quality of salt available on the Yemeni market.

"A team will make field visits to the salt facilities to coordinate and train their staff on how to grind the salt, remove impurities, and add iodine," he said. "The second step is longer-term, and will implement the plan we are preparing."

YEMEN TIMES Radio

راديو يمن تايمز

التأسيس

"راديو يمن تايمز" هو أول إذاعة مجتمعية في صنعاء، حيث بدأ العمل في هذا المشروع في بداية 2012، والذي كان تأسيسه من أهم رؤى مؤسس يمن تايمز الراحل، البروفيسور عبد العزيز السقاف، ولذلك سعت الأستاذة / نادية السقاف رئيس تحرير صحيفة يمن تايمز إلى تحقيق فكرة المؤسس الراحل، من خلال تأسيس راديو يمن تايمز بمشاركة الكثير من المتطوعين والداعمين ومن آمن بأهمية الإعلام المستقل ودور الإذاعات المجتمعية. وتعد إذاعة يمن تايمز جزء من مشروع أصواتنا، و هو برنامج دولي يدعم تأسيس الإذاعات المجتمعية في دول الربيع العربي. حيث يتمحور هذا البرنامج حول العرب الذين سعوا لأن تكون أصواتهم المستقلة مسموعة، بعيداً عن الاحتكارات الحكومية، أو التجارية، بحيث تكون نقطة انطلاق جديدة لكل من يريد الخوض في تجربة الإذاعات المجتمعية المستقلة.

أهدافنا

يعمل "راديو يمن تايمز" على طرح وجهات نظر جديدة وموضوعات هامة للجمهور اليمني ويعايش قضايا المواطنين الذين يجيدون اللغة الانجليزية والعربية والأميين بشكل مباشر. ويسعى أيضا لإيجاد فضاءات جديدة لحرية الرأي والتعبير في اليمن عامة وفي العاصمة صنعاء خاصة ليكون راديو يمن تايمز «صوت من لا صوت لهم» وليعزز مفاهيم الديمقراطية وحرية الرأي والتعبير من خلال دوراته البرمجية المتنوعة التي تعالج قضايا المرأة والطفل وحقوق الإنسان وتدافع عن الحريات بواسطة إعلامها الهادف وبرامجها المتعددة والتي تخاطب بشفافية وموضوعية كل مستمعيها وتتسم بروح شبابية وإيجابية واضحة لكل من يتابعها سواء سكان صنعاء أو اليمن.

رؤيتنا

للإعلام دور كبير ومهم في الدعوة للتغيير السلمي فهو ركيزة من ركائز التغيير نحو الأفضل، ولكن الصراعات السياسية اعتادت أن تفرض أجنداتها على المؤسسات الإعلامية مما يخلق أثراً سلبياً واضحاً على طابع استقلال الإعلام وأثر بشكل مباشر على معايير أساسية مثل الحيادية والموضوعية. وهنا تسعى "إذاعة يمن تايمز" لتعزز من دور مؤسساتها الإعلامية المستقلة لتصل إلى كل من لا تصل إليه عبر صحيفتها لتكون من الإذاعات الرائدة في اليمن التي جعلت من الحيا والايستقلال سياسة خاصة لها مواصلة بذلك سمعتها الحسنة التي استطاعت أن تفرضها من خلال سياسة الصحيفة على الرغم من عدم وجود قوانين منظمة لعمل الإذاعات الخاصة في اليمن.

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From runaway child to famous singer

Ahmed Fathi's journey to success

Story by Amal Al-Yarisi
Photos by Ali I. Al-Moshki

Yemeni musician Ahmed Fathi left Yemen decades ago to make his way in the world and to build his name in the music industry. He recently visited Yemen from the UAE to commemorate the third anniversary of Yemen's 2011 uprising.

Fathi, 60, was born Ahmed Fatah in Hodeida city to conservative parents. His unlikely rise to stardom started in all began when he was eight years old and decided to construct his own oud out of empty, plastic oil containers.

Now famous in the Arab world, Fathi told the Yemen Times that the journey was not an easy one.

Not into sports, like most of his peers, Fathi's oud was his only companion. Though his father had friends who played and sang, he did not want his son pursuing music. He repeatedly broke Fathi's oud, hoping to put an end to the hobby.

"I did not give up. Every time he broke my oud, I made a new one," he said.

His father owned a coat shop, and many of his clients were singers.

"My father's shop was famous for the quality of its coats."

Some of the singers would visit the home, singing and playing the oud. Fathi would carefully study every note and would later head out to his carefully hidden spot and play what he had heard.

Fathi continued to practice in secret, without his father's knowledge. He was active with music at school.

"I used to be called 'the school singer,'" he said. When he was 13, he was declared the singer of Hodeida city, beating out singers twice



his age.

This did not help endear his father towards the profession, and he was warned to focus on his studies instead of singing and playing oud.

In 1967, at the age of 14, he met Adeni singer Ahmed bin Ahmed Qasim, a trailblazing singer in Yemen at the time.

"Qasim came to sing at a party in

Hodeida. I managed to visit him at his hotel."

Qasim asked Fathi to play sing and play the oud. Fathi recalls playing Qasim's oud, which was too big for him.

"The oud was bigger than I was. I was used to my smaller [home-made] one," said Fathi.

"I sang him one of [Egyptian

singer] Abdulwahab's songs." Qasim advised him to travel to Aden to pursue music. Fathi told him his family would not approve, so Qasim advised him to run away.

He saved up his allowance for a month, and then ran away to Aden.

"When I got there, I felt like a nomad in Paris," said Fathi. "[For the first time,] I saw street lights and a

cinema."

"I went to Qasim's house. He welcomed me warmly, treating me like one of his sons. He started to give me music and singing lessons."

His family did not know his whereabouts. While at school one day in Aden, he performed at a school ceremony in front of a group of prominent Yemeni musicians.

He was referred in the newspapers as Ahmed Fathi instead of Ahmed Fatah. He went along with it and has gone by the name ever since.

Six months after running away, his family located him in Aden. They promised to not stop him from playing and singing, and he returned with them to Hodeida.

Within three years, Fathi was a household name in Yemen. But he longed to learn more about music.

At his school one day, minister of education at the time, Ahmed Jabir Afeef and other officials attended an assembly at Fathi's school in support of Palestine. After performing for them, he was awarded a scholarship to the High Institute of Music in Egypt.

Fathi finished at the top of his class and returned to Yemen, but was disappointed in the arts scene. He decided his best chance for success would be in Egypt, so he went back.

Today, Fathi has homes in Egypt and the UAE. He is married and has four children. His daughter Bilquis has earned praise for her singing talents as well.

In a previous interview with the Yemen Times, Bilquis attributed her success to talent and to her father's dedication to her interest in music.

"He believed in me and polished my talent from my early years, but he never forced me to take a certain path," she said. "Rather, he allowed me to choose the future that I wanted for myself."

Fathi considers Yemen a county of art, ingenuity and civilization. If Yemen achieves a measure of stability, he hopes to set up a music conservatory to train the next generation of talent.

"It is my dream," he said.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Arab Spring complicates shifting demands in health sector

Mokdad stressed that the situation requires urgent action, as it is likely to worsen.

"Keep in mind that 70 percent of our population in the Arab world is less than 40," he said. "So we are looking at a nightmare coming ahead of us in terms of the burden of chronic diseases. Even if we maintain the same levels, the fact that our population is increasing and we are ageing means we will be faced with a larger problem."

Depression among women

The region is also afflicted by an unusually high—and rising—incidence of major depressive disorders and anxiety, especially among women. Even in peaceful parts of the Arab world, stresses on women have grown. Times are hard economically, and as the region undergoes urbanization, people are losing

their support networks of friends and family. Women, in particular, become very isolated.

The expectations placed on married women to manage their households can be stifling.

"Women are responsible for everything, even if they work. That includes raising their kids, taking care of them, cooking," says Nari-man Mohammed, a retired Egyptian accountant.

"My daughter, for example, has kids and has no time to think of anything else other than educating her children. She has to sit literally next to her son, in his first year of college, for him to study because he's so dependent on his mother."

Hoda Rashad, a social science professor at the American University in Cairo, told IRIN: "We are still, in the medical profession, focusing on the mortality indicators. How-

ever in all our countries we are feeling that the frustration of people is quite high. Much more needs to be done on understanding the burden of mental health, but also linking it to some cultural determinants... If you are a woman and you are educated and have some income in your hands and then you are denied your potential, there is frustration. That's part of it. The other part is that when you are from some social group and public policies do not protect you enough, so you are under threat - these are our diseases now."

Unrest takes a toll

The most recent Global Burden of Disease data is from 2010, but health conditions are known to be worse in areas where fallout from the Arab Spring and the "war on terror" have led to ongoing conflict.

In the Levant, which previously had some of the best health services in the Arab world, healthcare systems have been devastated. Refugees are streaming across borders, from Syria and Iraq, often requiring healthcare. Many are members of the middle class, living independently in urban areas rather than in camps, placing the burden on local healthcare providers.

Iraq, which used to have a strong national health system, now rents whole wards in public hospitals in Lebanon to accommodate patients it can no longer treat inside the country.

Omar Dewachi, of the American University of Beirut, told the London meeting: "The war on terror has blurred a lot of the relationships between military and civilian, between healthcare and warfare, and we see how these lines don't exist anymore... One of the things we talk about is how healthcare, or medicine and health, has become not only just an outcome of war but also a tactic of war. It has been used by states and militias, state and non-state actors, in the practice of war."

He cited the example of attacks on hospitals in Bahrain by government forces, which accused the facilities of treating opposition activists.

Hope for universal healthcare access

Some of the authors of the series saw the Arab Spring, with its original agenda of greater social justice, as an opportunity to improve access to healthcare. User fees are still in force in the Arab world, though they have been abandoned elsewhere; across the region, between 50 and 70 percent of healthcare costs are now paid out of patients' pockets, a burden that falls most heavily on the poor.

In a paper on four of the Arab Spring countries—Egypt, Libya,

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Tunisia and Yemen—the authors point to European and Latin American countries where revolutionary movements and social unrest were drivers for the provision of universally accessible healthcare. This has not yet happened in the recent uprisings, in which the most vociferous demands have been for political and economic concessions.

Yet universal access will prove increasingly important as the region shifts away from infectious diseases and towards chronic conditions. While a poor family may be able to afford occasional private treatment

for acute illnesses, the burden of chronic care can only be borne by strong public healthcare systems.

The authors call this "a golden opportunity to capitalize on the social equity dynamic" created by the uprisings. But they also warn: "If policymakers and societies in Arab countries with uprisings do not focus on universal health coverage, it will be lost to the many other priorities and challenges that these countries are facing."

This article is reprinted with permission from IRIN.

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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

COMMUNITY LIVELIHOODS PROJECT (CLP) |

Tender Invitation

The Community Livelihoods Project (CLP) is a USAID-funded project in Yemen managed by Creative Associates International.

In coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, CLP is responsible for the following:

Providing materials (filters & HPLC analytic columns) for honey quality control laboratory

CLP is inviting qualified Companies specializing in this area to submit offers.

Interested companies are invited to contact CLP at the address below to request a copy of the RFQ during the period **February 25, 2014 thru Sunday, March 2, 2014, 03:00pm** to receive the complete Tender Documents.

CLP email: proc@clp-yemen.com

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Emirates SkyCargo to start trucking operations between Dubai International and DWC

Newly awarded trucking contract marks milestone in the progress of Emirates SkyCargo's move to Al Maktoum International Airport (DWC)



Emirates SkyCargo is gearing up for the move of its freighter fleet to Al Maktoum Airport.

Emirates SkyCargo is gearing up for the move of its freighter fleet to Al Maktoum Airport (DWC) by signing a trucking contract with Dubai-based Allied Transport LLC, an established land transportation services provider within the United Arab Emirates and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). The five year contract will see Allied Transport provide road feeder services between Dubai International (DXB) and DWC for Emirates SkyCargo, including the operation of up to a fleet of 45 trucks in the first year.

Starting May 1, Emirates SkyCargo freighters will call Al Maktoum International Airport their new home. The freighters will be handled exclusively from DWC while passenger fleet belly cargo operations will continue to operate from Dubai International Airport. Therefore, the trucking of cargo between the two airports will form a critical part of the new Emirates SkyCargo operation. Dedicated road feeder services between DXB and DWC for connecting cargo will be introduced to maintain the minimum possible transhipment times between freighters and the passenger fleet.

For this year Emirates SkyCargo expects to have approximately ten trucks per hour running between DWC and DXB during peak times, with frequency to increase over the coming years. The cargo will be moved via purpose-built truck docks at both airports to achieve quick turn-around.

"Emirates SkyCargo's terminal at DWC, the new home of our entire freighter fleet, is a global cargo terminal with world-class facilities. The development

progress is well on track and we are ready to start operations soon," said Nabil Sultan, Emirates Divisional Senior Vice President, Cargo.

"Our freighter fleet today already accounts for 35% of Emirates SkyCargo's revenue and the new terminal is at the core of our growth plans. Looking at the bigger picture, the new infrastructure also has a positive multiplier impact on Dubai as it will create a cargo corridor that connects the Jebel Ali port, DWC and Dubai International Airport," he added.

Upon full completion, the terminal will be equipped to handle 700,000 tonnes per year, with the potential for further expansion to reach 1 million tonnes. The new Emirates SkyCargo terminal will feature state-of-the-art technology, including a fully automated material handling system which is one of the world's first to have an automated Unit Load Device (ULD) that enables quick transfer of 6 ULDs simultaneously. In addition, an automated pallet handling system, advanced storage system, offices, workstation areas, modern communication and security systems, canteens, and other amenities will be installed. The terminal infrastructure also includes 46 truck docks and 80 truck parking spaces, in addition to 12 aircraft stands directly in front of the terminal.

Emirates SkyCargo currently operates a freighter fleet of 12 aircraft - 10 Boeing 777Fs and two Boeing 747-400ERFs - all of which will move to Dubai World Central Al Maktoum International Airport. Operations at the new cargo terminal will commence with 250 staff, which will be increased to 500 staff gradually.

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)

COUNTRY: Republic Of Yemen

PROJECT: Saada-Aden Yemen international Corridor Highway (SAYICH)

Assignment Title: Corridor Study and Pre-Feasibility Study for new highway section between Amran and Saada (border) – 290 km

Reference No.: 1CS/IDA/14

The Government of Yemen has applied for financing from the World Bank (International Development Association – IDA) toward the cost of the Yemen Corridor Highway Project. The Project is part of the multi-donor funded "Saada-Aden Yemen International Corridor Highway" (SAYICH) Program, which will connect the country's major cities along a new north-south axis. The design and studies for the sections between Aden in the south and Amran were completed in 2005. The proposed IDA-funded Yemen Corridor Highway Project will include funding the preparation the corridor-level studies and pre-feasibility analysis for the section between the city of Amran and the Yemen - Saudi Arabia border (north of Saada) with a length of approximately 290 km.

The corridor level study will consist of identifying and selecting the optimum corridor for this section of the new Corridor Highway, including the preliminary economic feasibility analysis and the preparation of other necessary related studies. It is expected that the services will start in mid-2014 and shall be executed during a period of 15 months.

The Ministry of Public Works and Highways represented by **Saada-Aden Yemen international Corridor Highway (SAYICH) PIU** now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc).

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank's *Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants [under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants] by World Bank Borrowers [January 2011]* ("Consultant Guidelines"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub consultancy to enhance their qualifications.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost Based Selection method set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours [08:00 to 02:00 hours]. Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by fax, or by e-mail) by March 27th, 2014.

**Ministry of Public Works and Highways,
Saada-Aden Yemen international Corridor Highway PIU
Attn: Eng. Abdul Jabbar Saeed Salem,
The Project Director
Nuqum, Next to Berlin Public Park
MPWH Head Offices Building, 4th Floor
Sana'a, Yemen
Tel: + 967 1 542966
Fax: + 967 1 542965
Email: tahp.mpw@gmail.com**

Rural Growth Programme Terms of Reference Programme Director

Organization : Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
Job Title : Programme Director
Duty Station: Sana'a
Duration : 1 year (with possibility of extension, subjected to performance appraisal)
Languages required : Arabic and English.
Nationality : Yemeni

1. Background:

IFAD's Rural Growth Programme (RGP) aims at improving the food security in rural areas and reducing rural poverty. Accordingly, the RGP would stimulate sustainable rural economic growth for women and men in rural communities, and its main interventions would focus on: (i) enhancing the resilience of households and communities; (ii) upgrading the agricultural technologies; (iii) increasing the access to economic opportunities for rural women and men; and (iv) climate-proofing the infrastructure and natural resource base.

Geographically, the RGP intervention areas initially will include Dhamar, Al-Dhala, Hodeidah, Lahej and Taiz governorates. The Programme's target group would consist of poor food insecure rural women and men living in selected communities with a specific focus on women and youth. At full development, the RGP is expected to directly reach up around 1.2 million individuals, of whom around 0.8 million from below the poverty line.

The Lead Programme Agency will be the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. Overall coordination at national level and support for cross-cutting issues will be provided by a National Programme Coordination Unit (NPCU) located in Sana'a and reporting to a National Steering Committee (NSC). At each governorate level, the coordination of programme planning and implementation will be the responsibility of the Programme Management Unit (PMU) reporting to a Governorate Steering Committee (GSC).

The PCU is headed by a Programme Director and supported by associated staff (viz. finance manager, internal auditor, M-E & KM specialists, environment & climate change specialist, energy engineer, training advisor, and secretary).

2. Duties and Responsibilities:

The Programme director would be responsible for all aspects of management of implementation and be directly answerable to the Programme National Board. He/she would be located in Sana'a, but will work closely with the PMU's, line ministries and governorate's offices.

The Programme director would be the head of the Programme Coordination Unit (PCU) and would directly supervise and monitor all Programme work, whether in-house or contracted out. He/she would work closely with senior staff from national, Governorate, NGO and private sector agencies, community-based organisations and service providers to ensure that the operations of all involved implementing bodies achieve the Programme goals and objectives.

Within the framework, as described above, he/she will be responsible for the following:

- acting as Secretary to the National Board and ensuring that its directives and guidelines are incorporated into all Programme activities;
- the liaison function, in concert with the line ministries, MoPIC, MOF, MAI, MLA; and with all national or regional level bodies representing farmers, service providers and related interests;
- Oversee the AWPB preparations at governorate level and ensure the consultative and participatory approaches in AWPB preparation;
- Facilitate and ensure proper implementation of the outputs and activities of the RGP in accordance with the AWPB;
- Provide leadership and strategic thinking to ensure proper implementation of programme activities. Administer the day-to-day operations, through designated staff, to ensure the effective management and efficient implementation of the programme components;
- Management of the (PCU) and direct involvement in all personnel selection, appointment and performance matters relating to its staff and other PMUs staff;
- Supervise the PMU's, provide strategic guidance, overall coordination of the work, and follow-up the work ensuring the effective and efficient implementation of the activities at each governorate level;
- Coordination with relevant ministries, national organizations, private sector firms and civil society initiatives as required by the RGP objectives and activities;
- Oversee and provide general guidance and support to the national/international experts/consultants experts;
- Organize regular meetings with the PMUs Managers and staff to discuss implementation and supervision of activities and as well as follow-up actions; and assist each PMU with policy dialogue issues and provide relevant technical guidance and support.
- Coordinate and supervise the preparation of regular progress and annual reports in , The quarterly, six-monthly , and annual progress reports to be submitted to the national board, MAI and donors.
- Build up strategic relationships and develop partnerships with UN agencies, government institutions, bi-lateral and multi-lateral donors, private sector, civil society organizations, other external development partners and Yemen's national institutions (including the Chambers of Commerce) in support of appropriate programme expansion, where necessary.
- Supervise all staff assignment and consulting agreements of the PCU and PMUs;
- Participate and contribute to the capacity development activities undertaken under the programme;
- providing leadership, guidance, enthusiasm and catalytic input to all levels of Programme participants and activities, whenever appropriate.

3. Competencies:

- a. Working experience in integrated rural development in the poor area, their development issues and participatory planning and implementation of the sustainable development in the rural area and have good policy analytical capacities .
- b. Ability to work in and lead a multi-disciplinary team and to lead and direct programme financial and technical staff, strategic planning, results-based management and reporting.
- c. Demonstrates openness to change, and the ability to manage team efforts in varying complex situations.
- d. Substantial work experiences in development programs and familiarity with development initiatives and stakeholders as related to rural development in Yemen.
- e. Strong analytical abilities and research sense capacity; Demonstrates strong oral and written communication skills.

4. Qualifications and Experience:

- a. At A bachelor's degree in rural development, agriculture, development studies, or a closely related field with a minimum of 15 years of experience. A master degree in lieu of the above with a minimum of 12 years experience or Ph.D. with 10 years experience will be accepted
- b. Of the above, at least 10 years of working experience in the development programmes/programmes, policy and administrative management, and training,
- c. Strong knowledge of donor reporting formats, including AWPBs and M&E systems.
- d. Significant experience in programmes funded by international organizations, and familiar with government procedures.
- e. Full working knowledge of Arabic and English, including excellent drafting and presentation skills, excellent communication skills.
- f. He/she would have demonstrated in the chosen career: effective judgement and determination; a consistent track record of increasing responsibility and achievement; real understanding of the principles and practical methodology of community-based rural development; and a high level of inter-personal and entrepreneurial skills.

5. Application Process:

1. Interested qualified candidates are encouraged to apply for the above mentioned position by sending a recent detailed CV, along with an application letter clearly mentioning the position applied for in the " email/letter subject line ". The applications and the CVs should be replicated to all of the following email address:
 - a. agriculture@yemen.net.ye
 - b. icoyemen_ifad@yahoo.com
2. Only a short-listed candidates will be contacted for the next step of selection process.
3. The deadline for the application is 2.3.2014

Qualified female candidates are highly encouraged to apply. All applications will be treated with strictest confidence.

FAO representative to the Yemen Times:

“So long as 75 percent of the population lives in rural areas, it means [we must] develop these rural areas, which largely depend on agriculture”

Nearly half the population of the country, about 10.5 million Yemenis, are food insecure—and that number is rising, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The political unrest following the 2011 uprising has “reduced the volume of locally grown goods in local markets,” according to the FAO.

Qat-cultivation and extensive land degradation has also reduced amount of land available for food production, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA).

The Yemen Times spoke with FAO representative Salah Hajj Hassan about the country’s current situation and the development strategy for Yemen’s agricultural sector.

Interview and photos by Ali Saeed

Can you please first brief us on FAO’s activities in Yemen?

FAO is an International Organization and one of the major players and stakeholders within the international community as an agency to develop the agricultural sector. It has five major objectives, which are being implemented by the director general.

Critical initiatives include food security and water [management]. I think these are [two of the things] that have created larger problems in Yemen.

[FAO] has initiated several interventions on the topic of food security with different partners, including local and international NGOs as well as numerous ministries, including the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, the Ministry of Fisheries and the Ministry of Water and Environment.

Most interventions prioritize aims that have already been adopted as part of national policy and strategy. This includes food security, as I’ve mentioned. There are specific problems that affect food security, and we deal with these emerging problems. This includes locusts and other insects or diseases that affect crops, in turn affecting the economy and the livelihoods of farmers, reducing productivity and revenues.

For example, there was a locust infestation that affected tomato crops and caused very serious economic losses for the country this year. Aside from the direct support which is done on the local level with other partners, we are directly supporting agricultural imports such as seeds.

Strategically, we are trying to lead major interventions in the development of the agricultural sector. This sector is one of the major pillars of the economy. It involves 70 percent of the labor force and amounts to about 17 percent of the country’s GDP.

So long as 75 percent of the population lives in rural areas, it means [we must] develop these rural areas, which largely depend on agricul-

ture. It will be one of Yemen’s most important challenges. It will be one of our most important challenges as well.

We are coordinating with different ministries and institutions to bring all these efforts under the framework that was formulated for Yemen one year ago. The process was conducted for every country where FAO is active.

We are prioritizing what is most important and partnering with others to determine and secure the needed resources to implement these priorities.

How do ensure that those most in need can access support?

We have international and national staff that are working directly, on-site with those requiring assistance, our partners and the concerned authorities. We have people on-location who make assessments on the ground. Based on these assessments, we identify the targeted beneficiaries and intervention is made in coordination with local authorities and NGOs.

Most of the time, we are involved directly in the implementation, with technical staff on the ground.

Is there any particular region FAO is focusing on for agricultural development?

We have been identifying some of the sites. We should be realistic about [which areas] can be reached. Because of security concerns, not all areas are accessible.

The Tehama area is the most productive and important area, comprising 40 percent of Yemen’s agricultural land.

One project we have, which is being funded by the EU, is a database about food security in the country. The Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation will implement the project in 2014.

The Tehama region consists of Hodeida and parts of Hajja, Mahwit and Haramout. These areas have a lot of potential for agricultural development.

Do you have strategies or programs planned for these areas?

We are now in the process of formulating plans. At the 32nd FAO Regional Conference for the Near East and North Africa, which will be held at the FAO headquarters in Rome between Feb. 24-28, most countries—we hope, will be involved in a side event that has been arranged by the headquarters and requested by the director general. This side event is about Yemen, specifically.

During this meeting, we will address major priorities, potentials and the challenges for Yemen’s development in the coming few years. This will be an important meeting, bringing together donors and policy makers from most of the countries of the Middle East.

The special meeting on Yemen is to draw attention to the importance of food security and agriculture development in Yemen in relation to the job opportunities, as well as the general development plan that will help the local authorities to reduce poverty. The program takes into consideration the dynamic impact of returnees, refugees, IDPs and migrants from the Horn of Africa.

Many farmers complain about the lack of marketing or promotion of their products. Farmers frequently experience losses because prices of the local market are so low and there is no system to export it abroad.

I will talk to you frankly. Marketing is very important in the Ministry of Agriculture’s national strategy. The ministry has been doing its best.

Marketing is a process, and it starts at the planting of the crop and continues until the product reaches the consumer.

Yemeni agricultural crops should be examined and the weaknesses should be fairly assessed. We should think of the product from the time it starts off as a seed, until it is planted, grown processed, handled, shipped and displayed on the market.

This whole process is something that will be addressed in the coming period and should be addressed from all the participants in the process.

Yemen has valuable products. [Many] are produced during periods when the rest of the region is not producing [those products].

But, these products require processing, packaging and shipping in order to be put on the international market. That is why we say marketing is an integrated issue requiring numerous actors from institutions and ministries to be involved.

Did FAO play a role in developing this integrated approach?

One of the very important points we are going to discuss at this coming conference which we consider to be the framework of the coming period is this [integrated approach]. I have already discussed this with the minister of agriculture and emphasized that marketing is a priority and that, as partners, we are looking forward to having Yemeni products on the market.

How is the cooperation between FAO, the government and local NGOs?

One of our partners is the Ministry of Agriculture. There is very good cooperation between the Ministry of Agriculture and other ministries, including the Ministry of Fishers, the Ministry of Water and Environment and the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation.



“Most of the time, we are involved directly in the implementation [of these projects], with technical staff on the ground,” according to FAO representative Salah Al-Hajj Hassan.

What is really important to us is that any initiative that we do is sustained by local authorities. We have a water project for the Sana’a water basin that will be implemented soon. The project is funded by the Netherlands and the challenge is to sustain the initiative. Sustainability is key for development.

It is clear that food insecurity is a big problem in Yemen. What are the key reasons behind the growing food insecurity?

The main problem is that Yemen imports 90 percent of its food. The sector that makes food available is agriculture—integrated with other sectors. If we are seriously going to solve the main issues related to food security and job opportunities, we have to go to rural areas because more than 70 percent of the population lives in rural areas.

Agriculture is the foundation for food. If we want to increase food security and create jobs, it means that we have to develop the agriculture sector.

Any messages or recommendations for the Yemeni government and donors on food security?

Food insecurity is an alarming issue in Yemen. We have to make all possible efforts to coordinate between agencies, donors and NGOs in order to create the most efficient initiatives.



In Yemen, 75 percent of the population lives in rural areas. To develop the economy, a strategy is needed to develop rural areas.

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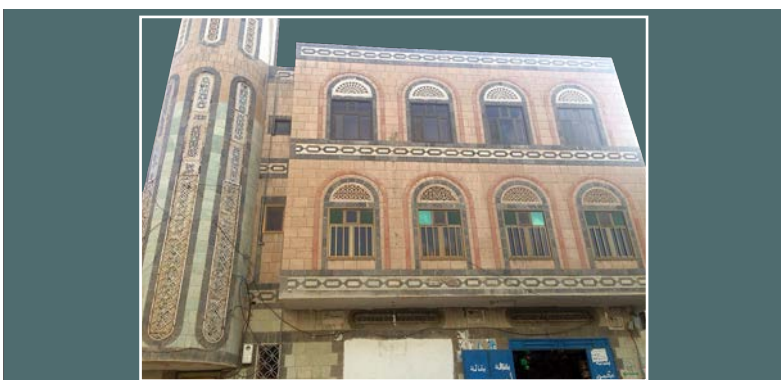
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Sudoku

5	8	1	9				
	7	9	5			3	
4			8	2		5	
	3	1	5			9	
	2		4	3		5	
7		6		3	8		
2	6	5				7	
3		1	4		2		
	1		2	5	8		

Easy

3		7	4	2			
7		9		3			
5			4		6		
	2	4			9		
	3		2	5			
8	3	1	6				
2		9			4		
	8		1	3			
6	9	3		7			

Intermediate

	6		3	8			
			5			9	
7							1
9			8			5	
3			2			6	
4		7				3	
							2
	1	5		9			

Difficult

Chess

White plays and wins in the 2nd move

Solutions

Sudoku Solutions

5	8	1	9				
	7	9	5			3	
4			8	2		5	
	3	1	5			9	
	2		4	3		5	
7		6		3	8		
2	6	5				7	
3		1	4		2		
	1		2	5	8		

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Yemeni Banks:

Turning Bint Al-Sahn into a successful business Foundation trains women to turn cooking talents into business savvy

Story and photo by
Amal Al Yarisi

Muneera Nasr, 35, married when she was 15 years old and was never able to finish her school degree. To support their six-member family, her husband drives a taxi, but it is not enough to cover daily living expenses. While she

has no educational qualifications, she has been able to spin a talent for cooking into a business.

She has received training from the All Girls Foundation, funded by the Social Development Fund. The foundation launched a one-month program in order to improve the household income of women without high school degrees.

"It's true that I am just a housewife, but I make the most delicious

Yemeni food and I can [now] make a living because of it," Nasr said.

Most Yemeni women, regardless of the educational qualifications, are expected to know how to cook. What many women lack are marketing skills to successfully get the word out about their ventures.

The program intends to train female cooks and preserve traditional cooking in Yemen.

Entsar Al-Adhi, the head of the All Girls Foundation, said the purpose of the one-month long program is to help women further develop their cooking and baking skills and to start their own projects.

This, she said, will help them increase their income and improve the living situation of their families.

The All Girls Foundation is a development organization that works to empower youth and encourage their participation in community development and the decision making process.

The foundation started the program six months ago. The first step was conducting field research on traditional food in Yemen. Later, the foundation invited low-income women to register, according to Al-Adhi.

In January of this year, out of over 80 applicants, 60 were selected to start receiving

training.

"We offered evening and morning training to accommodate their schedules," Al-Adhi said.

Nasr was told about the program by a friend.

"I felt I had an opportunity to improve my cooking skills and to accomplish my dream of achieving something [outside of being a housewife]," she said.

She and others received training on how to run and manage projects, on service quality, marketing, how to secure loans and budget preparation for small businesses.

She said she will start applying everything she learned in the training.

"Good packaging of food and good marketing will help me receive more orders," she said.

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Prior to participating in the program, Nasr used to prepare and sell traditional dishes with her four sisters for special occasions, including weddings and childbirth celebrations—but it was not very profitable, she said.

Nojoud Al-Khidri, also a mother, needed to improve her economic situation as well.

"I have improved my baking skills and now sell Sabaya, Bint Al-Sahn and different kinds of cakes," said Al-Khidri.

Al-Khidri runs her

business out of her home, and has decided to name it Bilquis for Traditional Baked Goods.

"I will be a competitor and will offer baked goods at lower prices than similar goods on the market," she said.

She now has business cards to pass around.

Her target audience is wide—she wants to sell her goods to low-income people who will be drawn in by the lower prices, tourists interested in traditional food, and the well-off, who can afford to be selective about the quality of the food they buy.

Al-Khidri aspires to open her own bakery in the future. "Nothing is impossible. I only need support and encouragement. The All Girls Foundation training was that support," she said.



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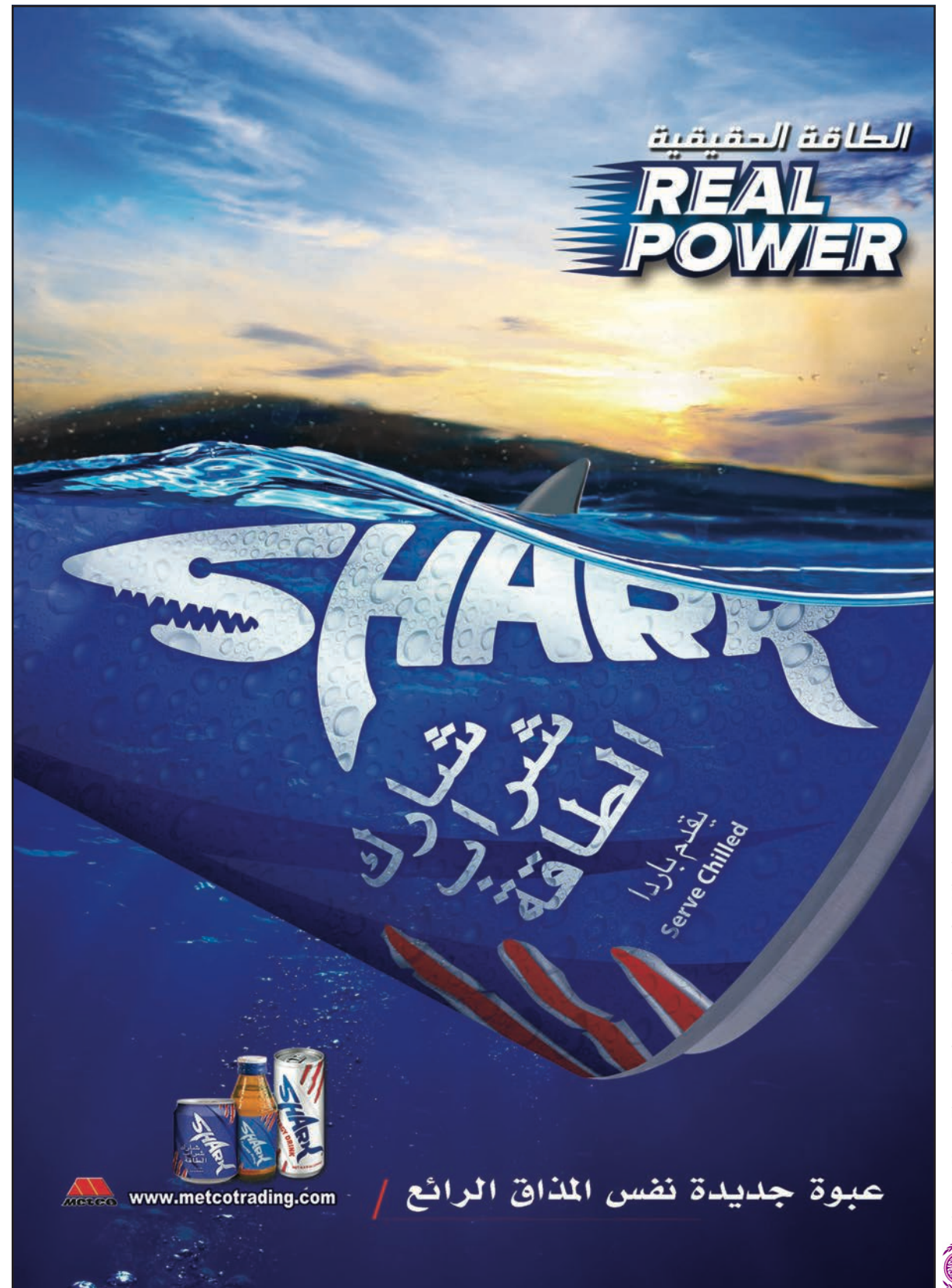
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