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Dyslexia affects 11% Yemeni school children

By: Ayham Al-Otoom

SANA'A, Dec. 12 — Almost eleven percent of 13-year-olds in Yemen suffer from the learning disability dyslexia, revealed a new survey conducted in eight schools across the country's capital city Sana'a.

In the first research of its kind conducted in Yemen, the Bilqees Foundation surveyed 231 eighth grade students. Results showed that at least 25 (10.8 percent) of the sampled students are dyslexic and hence suffer from learning difficulties.

The foundation's chairperson Zainab Al-Aqel said that they did the survey so that they could assist students with dyslexia.

"Dyslexia is a problem not only in Yemen but all over the world. The point is to create ways to deal with it and enable our students to get the best out of their education," she said.

"Unfortunately, frustration and pressure from parents to succeed push many dyslexic students out of school."

Dyslexia is a learning disability, which impinges upon a person's ability to read. This impairment manifests as problems with understanding the sounds of language, reading and spelling and affects short-term memory.

There is no inter-relationship between dyslexia and an individual's IQ.

Learning difficulties like dyslexia are neither widely acknowledged nor understood in Yemen. Early indicators from the foundation's work show that the learning disability could affect a significant proportion of Yemeni children.

Dyslexia is often linked to school drop out rates. In a US study on dyslexia by the National Center for

Education Statistics, the high school dropout rate for students with learning disabilities was more than double the rate of other students. According to the US study, young people with untreated dyslexia are more likely than their non-dyslexic peers to drop out of high school and become unemployed or end up in prison.

Around 80 percent of Yemeni children between 6 and 14 drop out of school and almost 75 percent of those who stay must repeat classes, according to 2010 report from the Yemeni Ministry of Education.

To highlight this issue, the Bilqees Foundation for Development organized an awareness event on December 11 and presented some of its findings.

Al-Aqel has had first-hand experience with dyslexia. A few years ago she discovered that one of her children was dyslexic. Being aware of the disability, she sought means to help her child, which further motivated her to help other children in Yemen.

The foundation's survey used diagnosis programs such as Lucid CoPs, which is a diagnostic screening program for short-term memory, phonological (sound system of language) awareness, auditory and colour discrimination suitable for dyslexia screening.

Inspired by this initiative, the Minister of Education, Dr. Abdulsalam Al-Jawfi, who attended the event, promised to launch a national campaign in all public schools to identify dyslexic students and help them do better at school.

"We will launch an awareness and training campaign that targets the teachers and parents at schools, starting next February, to educate them about dyslexia and hopefully decrease student drop outs caused by learning difficulties," said Al-Jawfi.

(Continues on P3)

SPECIAL REPORT

Inside: Yemen's drug business on the rise. Plus personal stories of addiction and rehabilitation.



The global lucrative drug trade seems to have left no country on earth untouched. In Yemen, government officials have confirmed that drug abuse is on the rise. The drug industry spans international borders and ruins lives. The Yemen Times presents a special report by writer Ayham Al-Otoom to unpack the effects of drugs, the government's efforts to stop drug abuse, and civil society's attempts to help those who have fallen too deep into addiction. Turn to Page 12.

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Southern Movement leaders disagree as more demonstrations occur

By: Mohammed bin Sallam

SANA'A, Dec. 12 — Leaders of Yemen's Southern Movements have exchanged accusations during the last few days, doubting each other's loyalty to the movement's cause.

The fallout came after Ali Salem Al-Beidh, a former President of South Yemen currently exiled in Europe, put forward a proposal for a future political agenda for southern Yemen. In May last year, the former president declared himself leader of the southern separatists and called for a return of South Yemen. But his latest political program was rejected by many of the Southern Movement leaders who declared that he no longer represented them.

Another political agenda for South Yemen, proposed by former prime minister of Yemen, Haidar Abu Bakr Al-Attas, in exile in Saudi Arabia, found more acceptance among the Southern Movements' leaders who have decided to create a review committee to study it.

Al-Beidh advocates total independence for South Yemen while Al-Attas is advancing a federal solution.

Eight movements, each representing one of the seven southern governorates plus one representing secession-

ists abroad, have been unable to form a united front. Some demand total separation and others, most notably the Socialist Party, favour a compromise through a federation system.

"We refuse to allow the Socialist Party to interfere in the movements. It only tears us apart and creates disputes among us. You are either a member of the movement or of the party," wrote Haitham Al-Ghareeb, leader of the Aden based Southern Movement, in his weekly press statement on Thursday.

Accused bomber of sports club sentenced to death

In a separate incident, the ruling by a state security court yesterday to execute the man behind the bombing of Al-Wihda Sports Club in Aden in October prompted riots by southern separatists who led demonstrations in Lahj and Al-Dhale'.

Faris Abdullah Saleh was convicted of planting two explosives at the Al-Wihda Sports Club offices on Oct. 11. The bombs left 15 people injured, prosecutors said. Thousands took to the streets of the town of Daleh to protest the court ruling.

25 year-old Fares Abdullah Saleh from Al-Dhale' governorate, was charged with planting TNT explosives in the sports club offices. His brother,

accused of assisting him, received five years in prison.

The defendant's lawyer, Aref Al-Halimi, said the verdict lacks legal accuracy and is not based on hard evidence.

"My client was not arrested at the crime scene, nor were any explosives found on him at the time of his arrest. How could he be found guilty? This is all political security hearsay," said Al-Halimi.

Shortly after the ruling on Saturday, gunmen in Daleh and Lahj kidnapped five soldiers, including two officers, local authorities said.

Three more soldiers, including an officer, were kidnapped on Sunday by gunmen who setup a checkpoint at the entrance to Daleh, said a local official who said the assailants were Southern Movement militants.

The officer, Ahmed Al-Ghithi, was traveling by taxi towards Aden when he was captured.

The Southern Movement, agitating for the south's independence or increased autonomy, has said Saturday's abductions were to pressure the authorities to free prisoners detained ahead of the 20th Gulf Cup football tournament.

The group has not confirmed that its members abducted the soldiers on Sunday.

Center aims to save time and legal costs

By: Mahmood Al-Matari

Sana'a, Dec. 12 — The Yemeni Centre of Conciliation and Arbitration yesterday held a symposium to promote its arbitration system that aimed to save locals time and money.

Ismail Al-Wazier, the center's head, said that it would "solve trade conflicts".

"It was established after much effort by banks, judges and businessmen. It is a non-governmental organization... This centre is really important for Yemen. It is the first one to spread alternative ways for voluntary arbitration," he said.

"The way the centre operates is that the conflicting parties must both agree to come to the center. Each party

chooses a judge that it wants on an independent committee, instead of going to the courts."

Al-Wazier said that the center played a complementary role to traditional courts and does not replace the existing legal system.

"The committee makes a final decision that would be automatically implemented. While the committee does its job no-one has the right to go to the courts and courts must not accept any request from the parties," said Al-Wazier.

He said that the centre was different because every party could choose its own judge and that arbitration was shorter than a legal court case. He said that the center also wanted to maintain "friendliness between the parties".

The center has also signed a contract with the Yemeni Ministry of Justice to cooperate with each other on this arbitration system. The center will promote this system in various governorates throughout Yemen.

Achim Schlott-Kotschote, a consultant and expert at the centre, said that this system had spread worldwide.

"This alternative system has many features and that is why it is spread around the world. The idea of this system is to solve conflicts between parties, as long as it is industrial, commercial and investment related," said Schlott-Kotschote.

"Traders founded this system a long time ago. Now it has many features, like making quick decisions within a maximum period of three months."

Government investigates Taiz prison deaths

By: Shatha Al-Harazi

SANA'A, Dec. 11 — The Interior Ministry has sent a committee to Taiz Central Prison to investigate the death of two prisoners when a fire broke out at the correctional center last week.

Adel Al-Yazeedi, head of the human rights minister's office, told the Yemen Times yesterday that they "still don't know yet exactly what happened."

"All the complaints that we got were reported by the prisoners' sons. Some said they died because of the smoke, and others said they died because the security forces used force on them," said Al-Yazeedi.

The fire broke out at the prison last Thursday, Dec. 9. Apart from the two deaths, another prisoner was also injured.

Tawfeeq Al-Shoa'bi of the National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms (HOOD), said that prison security allegedly assaulted other prisoners. He also said that 11 prisoners were transferred to the political security prison in Taiz. Four others were moved to an unknown location.

Al-Shoa'bi said that security forces broke into the prisoner's cells with "smoke bombs and tear gas" on Thursday. He said the deceased were Abd Al-Jabar Qa'ed and Atef Al-Haidery. They suffocated to death.

Another prisoner, Sameer Safwan, 25, survived but suffered from serious burns. Al-Shoa'bi said the prisoner's confrontation with prison security started on Thursday, Dec. 2.

"The security forces broke into the prisoner's cells at 5am and took their cell phones. The next morning the prisoners rioted and burnt their blankets in the prison yard," said Al-Shoa'bi.

He said that there were no laws that prohibited or approved the prisoners from using their cell phones in prison.

The law ensured prisoners the right to call their family.

"Prison authorities think that cell phones were used to plan an escape and the attack of a convicted murderer. At that time, two security guards transferred the murderer to hospital when others attacked the guards and helped him escape. One of the guards was killed," said Al-Shoa'bi.

Al-Yazeedi said that cell phones were used in all prisons.

"Cell phones weren't the main problem [in the Taiz attacks]. We visited four prisons in Taiz and these were more like shopping centers. We found people selling cell phones, groceries and other goods," said Al-Yazeedi.

"It doesn't look like a place to isolate criminals. It's more like normal life outside as prisoners buy and chew qat."

Al-Shoa'bi said that prison authorities attacked prisoners after their meeting with a parliamentary committee on Tuesday, Dec. 7. The committee was assigned to check on their situation at the prison and the prisoners complained to the committee about the violations they endured.

HOOD demanded that the parliamentary committee continued investigating the deaths of the prisoners. It also demanded that a state prosecutor appoint a special committee to investigate the prisoner's situation and bring perpetrators to justice.

Al-Yazeedi said that if the parliamentary committee's investigation proved that the prison's administration was responsible for the deaths then it would be suspended.

"We have changed many prison administrations before for violations that were reported," said Al-Yazeedi.

"The head of Taiz Central Prison is new. He has been in this position for only two months and he tried to change the prison system and to stop prisoners

from doing business."

Abd Al-Rahman Barman, head of the Sajeen organization which focuses on prisoner's rights, said that prisoners elsewhere faced severe conditions. Recently, at Ibb Central Prison in Ibb governorate, a prisoner who was held for longer than his sentence cut off his fingers and ear to gain attention from human rights organizations. He sent his finger and ear to an organization.

Barman said that prisoners faced other violations, such as not being allowed visits, bad nutrition, isolation and racism.

"The prison administration discriminates between prisoners who have more power than others, especially between those who are convicted for plundering public money and others. They are held in luxury and have videos and CDs. Prisoners who protest for their rights only face violence," he said.

"Many prisoners are also held for longer than the time they are convicted for. Some stay for more than seven years longer than their convicted time. Some even stay in prison after they have been proven innocent."

Al-Shoa'bi said that organizations working for prisoner's rights don't get any co-operation from the prison administration.

"We always pretend that we are visitors to get into the prison and once we are inside we talk to the prisoners about their situation. Prison authorities make it difficult for us to get inside prisons if they know who we are," said Al-Shoa'bi.

Barman said: "The Human Rights Ministry should have started investigating the incident immediately, but as usual all the human rights NGOs are disappointed that the ministry will not do anything."

Al-Yazeedi said that the Human Rights Ministry would investigate all concerns raised.

World Bank meets stakeholders in preparation for Friends of Yemen meeting

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

SANA'A, Dec. 12 — The next Friends of Yemen (FOY) meeting is scheduled to take place in February next year in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. A high level delegation of the World Bank headed by Mahmoud Mohielden, managing director of the World Bank Group has just visited Yemen and met with various organizations and government officials.

"The World Bank needs to prepare its papers for the coming meeting of the Friends of Yemen. This is why we are meeting with press and civil society, the private sector and officials in Yemen to hear them and include their concerns in the FOY meeting," said Mohielden.

He mentioned that the World Bank is interested in hearing out all the concerns of relevant stakeholders in Yemen before the meeting.

The 'Friends of Yemen' was created in January 2010 at a ministerial meeting in London that gathered Western and Arab countries that have interests in Yemen. It is an international ministerial group interested in helping Yemen overcome its challenges.

A number of parliamentarians and civil society activists conveyed their concern to the bank delegation that the Yemeni government is not really living up to its part of reforms, and so donors should not give more grants to Yemen without holding the government accountable.

Member of the Oil and Minerals Committee in parliament, Ali Asshal, expressed his disappointment at the bank's credit policy towards Yemen.

"Yemen has no clear policy as to how much the country should borrow and on what terms," said Asshal. "There are three problems with the government's credit policy: lacking priorities, increased spending on so called capac-

ity building projects and the absence of credit effectiveness evaluation."

He urged the World Bank to evaluate how previous credits to the government of Yemen were spent before giving more loans to Yemen.

Other criticisms of the World Bank's dealings with the Yemeni government were voiced by activists in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative.

However, despite the enormous challenges Yemen faces which the bank duly acknowledges, Mohielden remained optimistic that there could be a breakthrough in Yemen's economic situation when the investment environment improves.

"We met with the private sector. Many of the large scale companies in Yemen are already investing greatly in other Arab and Asian countries. This is an indicator that if the investment environment in Yemen improves, they would be willing to also invest heavily in Yemen," he said.

On his appointment to the World Bank in October, among his other responsibilities Mohieldin was appointed as the institution's leader on the Arab World Initiative. This is a World Bank approach to countries of the Arab League to find opportunity and advantage in economic integration and knowledge sharing across the Arab World.

"We are mindful of Yemen's challenges and I came here to consider how best we could be effective as an institution in helping Yemen achieve the goals of sustainable development and inclusive growth," said Mohielden.

"I am also convinced that in the collective wisdom and effort of Arab countries lie advantages and solutions. Together, we can embrace those and our role at the World Bank is to figure out with Arab nations how we can be

helpful, especially in the areas of human development, infrastructure and financial and private sector development", he added.

Yemen's ownership of its fate

Perhaps the most stressed point during the discussions is that unless Yemen takes leadership of its own issues, no one from the outside can help it.

This is why the central operational document in the coming FOY meeting will be Yemen's Fourth Five Year Development Plan. This document is currently being reviewed by the Shura Council and will shortly be presented to the parliament for approval.

Moreover, the bank was requested by other organizations and countries to provide a number of reports on the situation of Yemen which will be used as background for the meeting.

In order to assist Yemenis in taking ownership of their own issues, as well as to show commitment to its transparency policy, the World Bank has carried out a major change to its information policy. All main operational documents of the World Bank are now publicly available documents. This has also started a large movement to translate the documents into Arabic so that they can be accessible to the Arabic reading public.

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To access World Bank public documents in either English or Arabic, go to World Bank Yemen website and click on the 'Access to Information' link. You can also access the pages using this shortened link: <http://bit.ly/ez6qJt>

US supplied 'illegal' arms to Saudi for war against Houthis

By: Iona Craig

SANA'A, Dec. 12 — The US supplied arms and intelligence to Saudi Arabia in their war against Yemen's northern Houthi rebels, according to leaked diplomatic cables. An act the United States' own counterterrorism chief said was illegal.

In further documents released by WikiLeaks this week, two cables, written in Dec. 2009 and Feb. 2010, by US Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, James Smith, recorded the diplomat's summary of "Saudi military operations against the Houthis" and "renewed assurance on satellite imagery."

"During the campaign, the Saudi military turned to the US for emergency provision of munitions, satellite imagery and intelligence to assist them to operate with greater precision," read the cable, dated Dec. 30. Smith goes on to report, "The US military responded with alacrity to the extent possible, primarily by flying in stocks of ammunition for small weapons and artillery."

The second of the two diplomatic documents records a meeting between the US ambassador and Prince Khaled bin Sultan, the Assistant Minister of Defense and Aviation, on Feb. 7th, 2010. The purpose of the meeting was "to relay US concerns about sharing US government satellite imagery with Saudi Arabia." According to the cable, the US ambassador expressed concern about a recent Saudi airstrike in Yemen on a building believed to be a medical centre.

The document goes on to detail an exchange between the two men where the Saudi Minister admitted to civilian casualties due to "the inability of the Saudi Air Force to operate with adequate precision, and the unreliability of Yemeni targeting recommendations."

Smith notes, "While the fighting with the Houthis appears to be drawing to a close, the imagery will be of continuing value to the Saudi military to monitor and prevent Houthi incursions across the border as well as enhancing Saudi capabilities against Al-Qaeda activities in this area."

In a statement on Dec. 15th, 2009, a US State Department spokesman flatly denied any US military involvement in the war against the Houthis: "We do not have a military role in this conflict,"



The US supplied emergency weapon shipments to Saudi Arabia for attacks against the Houthis, according to leaked diplomatic cables

said P.J. Crowley.

In a previously leaked Wikileaks' cable dated Sept. 2009, John Brennan, the US chief counterterrorism advisor, responded to a request by President Saleh for assistance in the sixth Sa'ada war by saying:

"The US government is prohibited by law from providing military support to the Republic of Yemen Government to be used against the Houthis since the US government considers the group a domestic insurgency."

Deputy PM's day in Parliament

Deputy Prime Minister for Security and Defense Affairs, Rashad Al-Alimi's delayed appearance in Parliament was something of a non-event. The minister turned up, as promised, to face questions from MPs on Saturday about allegations, revealed in a leaked diplomatic cable, that he had lied to Parliament about US airstrikes.

But the parliamentarians said they were unable to meet Al-Alimi because they were too busy discussing the elections and referendum laws. The minister had originally been summoned to appear on Dec. 8, after Parliament was presented with a cross-party petition, signed by 50 MPs. The Parliament voted unanimously for the deputy prime minister to explain himself to the 301 elected members. Al-Alimi failed to turn up last week and instead sent a let-

ter explaining he was unavailable due to Cabinet business.

WikiLeaks editor arrested

WikiLeaks has continued to release classified diplomatic cables despite the arrest and detention of its Editor-in-Chief Julian Assange. The 39-year-old Australian appeared in court in London on Dec. 7th to face a Swedish extradition order for allegations of 'sex by surprise' and sexual molestation. Bail was denied.

Online payment facilities for donations to the WikiLeaks website were stopped by Visa, MasterCard and PayPal, causing a backlash from computer hackers around the world led by 'Operation Payback'. The websites of all three companies crashed or had their services limited for several hours at a time due to an organized online assault. Operation Payback's cyberwar had already targeted Amazon's website for its decision to stop hosting WikiLeaks, and has now been joined by 'Operation Avenue Assange'. Attempts to push WikiLeaks offline have so far failed. In its defense more than 1,300 volunteer 'mirror' sites have been created, holding copies of the classified cables.

Assange is expected to appear in court again on Tuesday for his next bail hearing, which is anticipated to be refused, whilst he awaits a full hearing of the Swedish extradition request.

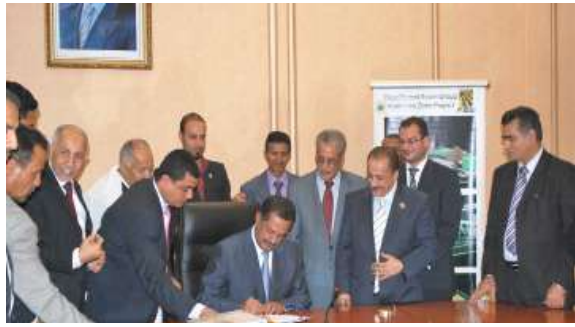
Government signs major Aden Free Zone project

Sana'a, 8 Dec. 2010 — His Excellency the Prime Minister Dr. Ali Mohammed Mujawar approved a Development and Operator Agreement signed between the Aden Free Zone Administration and the Aden Gulf Development Company that establishes a major new project in the Aden Free Zone.

Dr. Abdul Galil Shaif Al-Shaibi, Chairman of the Aden Free Zone Administration, and Mr. Abdul Gabbar Hayel Saeed, Chairman of the Aden Gulf Development Company Limited, signed the Development and Operator Agreement on behalf of their parties.

Dr. Al-Shaibi said: "Today, we mark the beginning of a ground-breaking project. The new investment, new economic activities and new jobs created by the Aden Gulf Project will materially improve our economy and our peoples' standard of living. This Project shows what can be accomplished when you get things right: when the Government creates the right enabling platform and the private sector brings the right investment, skills and know-how, it's a 'win-win' formula that brings many direct benefits to Aden and many spin-off benefits for the entire country."

Mr. Abdul Gabbar Hayel Saeed noted that: "Aden Gulf appreciates the support and confidence given by the



Government to the Aden Free Zone Project. It will be a lot of hard work over the next few years, but we believe in Yemen's future, we believe in the Aden Free Zone and we believe that our Project can help re-establish Aden as a premier maritime centre and key gateway for the import and export of goods and services in the region." As Aden Gulf's logo and the Aden Free Zone's vision confirms, we are fully committed to 'MOVING YEMEN FORWARD' through this Project.

The Aden Gulf Project will create a master planned, multi-purpose economic hub that lets you live, work and enjoy life within a secure, low cost, efficient business environment. Key components will include:

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The Aden Gulf Development Company Limited is a subsidiary of the Hayel Saeed Anam Group of Companies, one of Yemen's oldest, largest and most well established private enterprises. It has partnered with several leading international firms to develop the Aden Gulf Project and has commissioned extensive studies over the past two year prior to this launch of the Aden Gulf Project.

The Aden Free Zone Administration

regulates and operates the Aden Free Zone.

The signature ceremony was attended by:

- Dr. Yahya Al Shaibi - Minister of Civil Service & Pensions
- Mr. Salah Al Atar - Chairman of General Investment Authority

And from Hayel Saeed Ana'am Group:

- Mr. Ali Mohamed Abdu Saeed - Chairman of the Supreme Council of Directors
- Mr. Nabeel Hayel Saeed - Member of Aden Gulf Development Company Ltd.
- Mr. Wallid Fahmy Kassim- General Manager of development and projects - Aden Gulf Development Company Ltd

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Continued from page 1

Dyslexia affects 11% Yemeni school children

He also said that the ministry would start a survey at schools to measure the prevalence of the problem among Yemeni children.

Many of the school teachers and principals who attended the awareness event said they had never heard of dyslexia before.

"I've been working for 20 years in education and have not heard about this until the Bilqees Foundation contacted our school and held a meeting with the teachers. This

explains many issues we have noticed among children," said Amal Dahwan, principal of Sunna Al-Haya School.

"We used to think some of the children were slow or lazy. Now we are working to improve the quality of the education and cater to the needs of all our students."

Students from Sunna Al-Haya were among the study sample. After the results were released the school management decided to add two extra classes every week for dyslexic students.

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- To find out more about dyslexia you can visit the International Dyslexia Association at www.interdys.org
- To seek help for children suffering from dyslexia, call the Bilqees Foundation on 01-440-954
- For an online dyslexia test visit www.spot-your-potential.com
- Famous dyslexics include scientist Albert Einstein, former champion boxer Muhammad Ali, musician and former Beatle, John Lennon, actor Tom Cruise and Steve Jobs founder of the Apple computer company.

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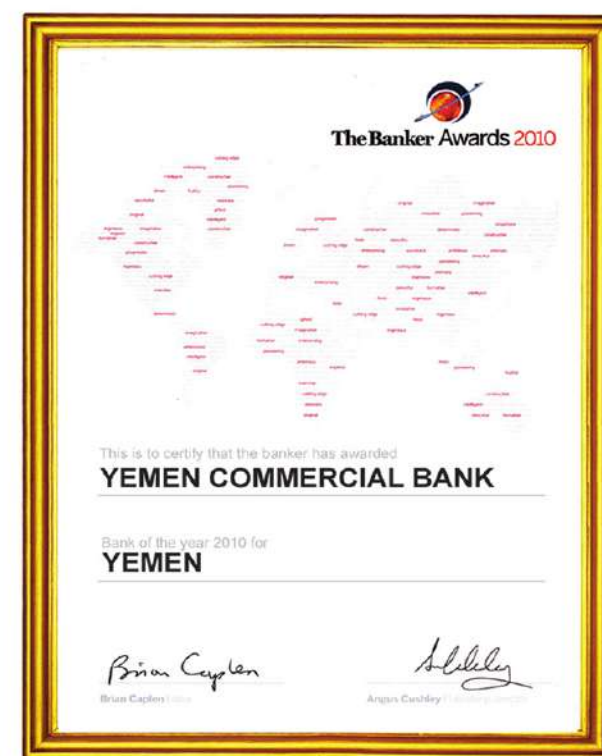


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Food security strengthens education and health in Yemen

The World Food Programme (WFP) is the food aid branch of the United Nations and the world's largest humanitarian organization addressing hunger worldwide. It has been working in Yemen since 1967 with offices in Sana'a, Amran, Aden, Sa'ada, Hajja and Hodeida. Since 1967, the WFP has provided about USD400-million in food assistance, focusing on key challenges facing Yemen. These include gender disparities and low levels of education, the Sa'ada conflict and resulting displacement of people, the growing influx of refugees from the Horn of Africa, and emergency levels of hunger and malnutrition.

Giancarlo Cirri has been WFP's Yemen Country Director since 2008. Tom Finn of the Yemen Times met with Giancarlo to talk about food insecurity in Yemen and the funding cuts facing WFP.



Giancarlo Cirri at a school in the Khaiwan camp, Amran Governorate in May 2009.

How do you define whether a person is food insecure in Yemen?

We measure food insecurity by looking at what people are eating, and to what extent their diet is diversified. If you have a person who is spending 30 percent of their income on bread, and that person is eating bread every day, you would consider them food insecure. We published a report early this year which found that 32 percent of the population of Yemen are food insecure and 12 percent are severely food insecure. In addition, we found that the correlation between food insecurity, poverty, malnutrition, low level of education, and large family size is very strong. This reveals a picture of food insecure persons who are in a total poverty trap. They are trapped in that situation and there are no opportunities for them to get out.

Due to a lack of funding you have had to cancel two of your programs, Food for Education and Food for Health, which have been very successful in encouraging girls to attend schools, and families to attend health clinics. Are there plans for these programs to return?

We didn't cancel or interrupt our Food for Education scheme. It's still in place. Every quarter they receive cereals and oil as a kind of incentive for their attendance, but because of a lack of funding, instead of having three regular distributions we are only having one. This is a real pity. If you visit one of the schools that we assist, you will see that in the classroom the number of girls equals the number of boys, which is not the norm in Yemen. The incentive that this scheme is creating for girls' enrolment is just massive. When you interrupt this scheme, immediately you see dropouts. Many poor families have stopped sending their girls to school. This scheme is also providing a safety net. This bag of cereal and oil is going to the family and is consumed in the family.

If this was such a successful program, why was it the first to be effected by your funding cuts?

Let me be clear, we are not the ones deciding. We are not the ones saying, "Let's cut this." The WFP relies on voluntary contributions exclusively. Contrary to certain development partners, we do not have an identified budget ev-

ery year which we can allocate to certain projects. Every single project that the WFP implements starts with a funding equal to zero. We do two kinds of operations: emergency operations and development operations. When there is a shortage of funding, I think what happens globally is countries begin to prioritise the former. In addition, our donors can indicate where they want their funding to go.

Isn't there a relationship between development programs and emergency programs? If you remove the former, aren't you more likely to be faced by the latter?

That's exactly our opinion. One of the possible explanations I think of why emergency oriented programs are better funded is the criticality of the activity. If we stop feeding the IDPs from the northern conflict, I mean the consequences do not compare to the girls not attending school. Which is not good either, but it's not a life threatening situation.

Some have said that funding is not the problem for humanitarian organisations in Yemen, it's having sound proposals. What is your response to that?

No, funding is the issue. Funding is not only an issue for WFP, it is an issue for humanitarian activities worldwide. This year, the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan asked for USD 185 million dollars for almost exclusively lifesaving activities. So far we have received 63 percent. That's simply not enough. The consequence is, for instance, that we had to cut the food rations for some internally displaced persons (IDPs) by half. The minimum kilocalorie requirement per person is 2,100 kilocalories per day. Some IDPs are now receiving half of that. You cannot sustain a healthy life with such a diet.

Given that so much of Yemen's food is imported, how important is investment in local agriculture as a means to achieve better food security?

Unfortunately food security does not equate with local production. There are countries where you have a very good level of food security and a very small agricultural production. Vice versa, food insecurity can be highest in the areas where food is actually being produced. So in the case of Yemen, increasing local production is only part of the strategy. Another key issue is the functioning of the markets. Because of the geography of the country and the lack of infrastructure, there are places that food commodities can barely reach.

Are things getting better or worse in



At current funding levels, WFP will be unable to provide assistance in the second half of 2010, leaving some 85 percent of the planned 3.1 million monthly beneficiaries without critical food and nutrition support.

Yemen in terms of food security?

A recent report by the IFPRI (International Food Policy Research Institute) suggests there are very real reasons to believe that poverty is increasing in Yemen. They had an estimate which I think sounds pretty reasonable. If you compare the situation in 2006 to that in 2010, this model is telling you poverty has increased in a very significant manner in Yemen. It increased from 35 percent to 43 percent. The reasons for this increase in the prevalence of poverty is the famous three F's: financial, food and fuel prices. The food crises relates to the increase in the price of food commodities that is effecting people worldwide, but impacting more negatively on poor and food insecure people. The fuel crises is particularly significant to Yemen in that fuel prices have decreased in a significant manner since 2006, and oil production is decreasing as well. So the capacity of the government to address the situation is decreasing because their income is decreasing.



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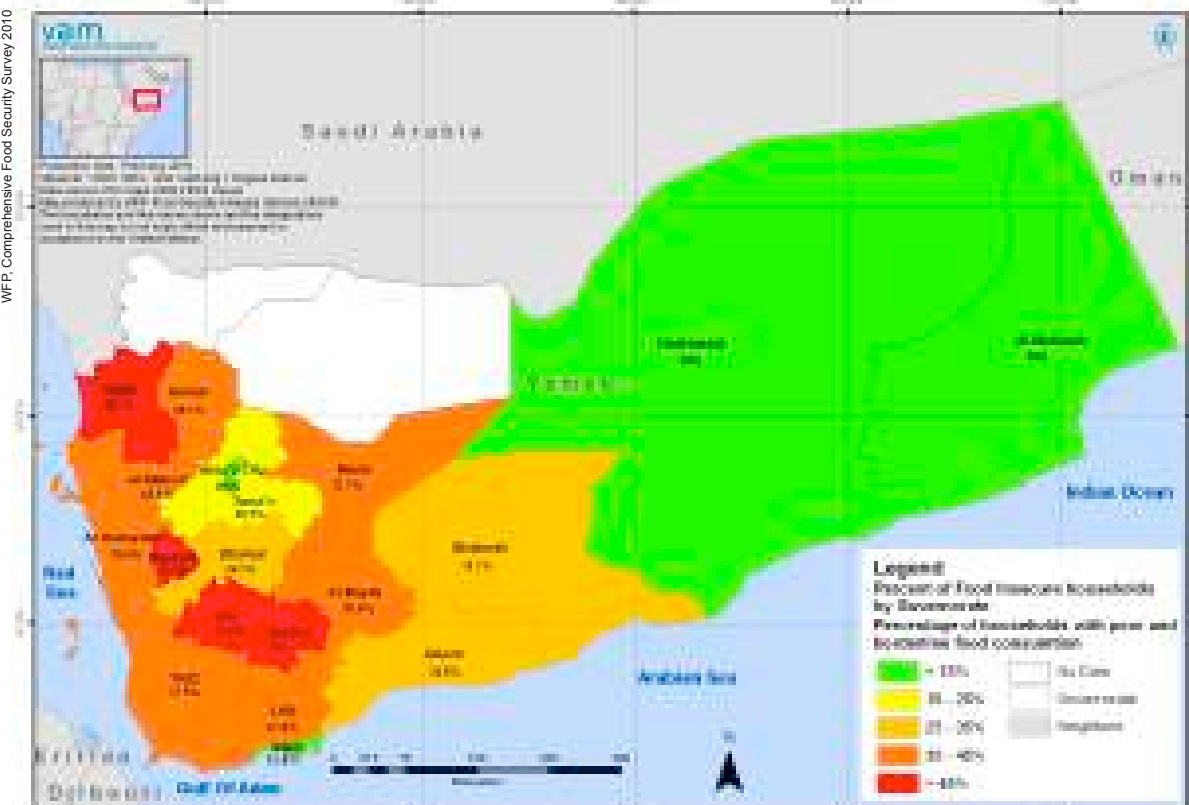
TUESDAY

IY671	B738	20:30	SAH	NBO	23:30
		20:30	SAH	DAR	01:30

SATURDAY

IY670	B738	23:00	SAH	DAR	02:30
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Percent of food insecure households at governorate level.

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رحمته ويسكنها فسيح جناته
وأن يلهم أهلها الصبر والسلوان
وإنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون



JOB VACCANCY

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), is an International Medical Humanitarian Organization providing medical aid to populations in distress, victims of natural and man made disasters and victims of armed conflict, regardless of race religion and political believe. Currently, MSF operates in more than 70 countries. For more information, visit our Arabic website, www.msfuae.ae

MSF is recruiting staff to take part in its project in Haradh :

OROMO/AMHARIC TIKRI- ENGLISH TRANSLATOR

(1 POST) position Determined for female candidates

Specific qualifications and experiences

- To translate the messages transmitted properly, always ensuring that all that is said is translated into English for the expatriate to understand the entire message.
- To avoid expressing personal opinion, except when the translator's opinion is requested.
- In difficult situations, the translator is asked to remain calm, in order to transmit an image of quietness and keep the situation under control.
- All tools having been provided to the translator in order to assist his work (dictionaries), are to be kept in good conditions.
- To keep the expatriate informed on the cultural, social and religious ways of the population and the country.
- To make all necessary phone calls in accordance with the request.
- To support the expatriate in all the ways required for a smooth running of the program
- Oromo/Amharic Tikre English translator interpretation verbally or written
- To be responsible for the proper communication for the MSF staff with any third party.
- To translate any conversations and written document upon request.

PSYCHOSOCIAL COUNSELOR

Specific qualifications and experiences

- Provide individual counseling and lead group counseling.
- Sensitize the IDPs on trauma and mental health issues.
- Take part in the training of clinic staff and key-persons in the community to enable them to recognise symptoms of trauma and psychosomatic symptoms.
- Take part in the set up and maintenance of a referral system with agencies to which you can refer clients for legal, social, psychiatric assistance
- Inform the expatriate supervisor (expat psychologist) of any problems identified
- Report instantly any security incident to an MSF expatriate
- Show commitment to the organization and development of all MSF activities
- Previous experience in a psychological counseling role desirable
- Good motivation, organizational skills and show initiative
- Excellent communication skills – ability to communicate ideas
- Willing to learn and receive regular trainings
- Flexibility to adapt to changing working conditions and to the working hours that could be increased in order to meet the needs of the program

PSYCHOLOGIST

Specific qualifications and experiences

- Provide individual and group psychological counseling.
- Take part in the set up and maintenance of a referral system with agencies to which you can refer clients for legal, social, psychiatric assistance
- Inform the expatriate supervisor (Psychologist) of any problems identified
- Report instantly any security incident to an MSF expatriate
- Show commitment to the organization and development of all MSF activities
- Good motivation, organizational skills and show initiative
- Excellent communication skills – ability to communicate ideas
- Organization and team work skills
- Willing to learn and receive regular trainings
- Flexibility to adapt to changing working conditions and to the working hours that could be increased in order to meet the needs of the program
- Interest in helping vulnerable people
- Degree in Psychology
- Experience in psychological counseling

DEADLINES DECEMBER 20TH, 2010

Candidates fulfilling the above criteria should send their contact details, CV and a covering letter at msfe-sanaa@barcelona.msf.org Médecins Sans Frontières- Spain in Sana'a -Yemen
Only short listed candidates will be contacted

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** invites **Yemeni Nationals** to apply for the following positions with its **"Post Flood Early Recovery Project"**

Title: Fisheries Officer
Type of Contract: Service Contract – SB4/SB5
Duration of Assignment: One year (renewable)
Duty Station: Seiyun, Hadramout -Yemen

Responsibilities:

- Responsible for the overall coordination, management & implementation of the fishery sector component of Early Recovery Project.
- Develop detailed recovery action plan of fishery sector to assist the flood affected fishing communities to restart restoration of fishery related livelihoods activities.
- Provide support and guidance to maintenance & operation of damaged fishing craft, gear and other equipment.
- Develop project packages to be taken into consideration in fisheries sector disaster response.
- Provide technical support to establish micro-enterprises on fish products.
- Monitor in regular basis the status of flood affected communities and their access to revolving fund, micro loan from their fishery cooperatives.
- Assess the fishery cooperative capacity in planning, management and implementation of recovery projects and provide technical support towards improvement in organizational development.
- In line with early recovery project the incumbent will formulate implementing program guidelines to NGOs and fishery cooperatives which are providing microfinance loans, vocational training and other fishery related services to micro-enterprises development.
- Maintain and develop effective and insightful monitoring procedures and build the capacity of the local authorities in fishery sector recovery and development and monitoring.
- Support the development of local fishery sector plans and strengthening of community organizations, NGOs, private sector action planning, implementation and awareness raising, integrating traditional knowledge and a focus on fishery sector recovery and development.
- Update base line data and information about post disaster recovery and their impact on the livelihoods of fishing communities and their environment.
- Prepare a monthly progress report detailing the activities performed during the month, highlighting achievements, challenge and making recommendations for future activities.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor degree in fishery or agriculture with specialization in fishery with 5 years experience in relevant field is required.
- Masters with at least 2 years experience is desirable but not required.
- Willing to live and work in Hadramaut and Al-Mahra Governorates.
- Fluency in written and spoken English.

Title: Information Management Officer
Type of Contract: Service Contract – SB4/SB5
Duration of Assignment: One year (renewable)
Duty Station: Seiyun, Hadramout -Yemen

Responsibilities:

- Provide support to the PM to establish governorate level early recovery common data and information system.
- Provide support in the collection of data, analysis, and reporting as needed and ensures the availability of necessary supplies and materials. Ensure that the required datasets are incorporated in to the system.
- Provide support to PM decision making by processing and analyzing data and information and presenting it in the format most useful for analysis.
- Select appropriate data collection tools and methods for field staff to collect and analyze data to measure performance towards outputs, effective asset utilization and capture important lessons learned.
- Develop training material and user manuals, and train governorate level GIS staff in the use of information management tools including

- record and archives systems
- Serves as technical expert on all processes associated with data management and processing, including database design, data entry and cleaning, archiving and retrieval.
- Serve as focal point within the early recovery stakeholders for GIS information exchange and support the promotion of data and information sharing protocols.
- Develop and maintain close relationships with key data providers to ensure delivery/availability of data relating to indicators of recovery and strengthened local government information flows.
- Develop and maintain a client-oriented approach with all relevant stakeholders to help identify their information requirements to ensure that the information needed to support early recovery Project planning and management.
- Supervise Information Assistant in the development of databases and GIS to support the collection and processing of context specific data (e.g. flood affected population, displaced populations, demographic and vulnerability data, results of common rapid needs assessment etc.).
- Provide guidance to Information Assistant to undertake data cleaning and data development tasks using excel and available GIS software.
- Scanning, digitization, data entry, and other activities relevant to GIS database development.
- Assist the consultant and early recovery Project sector specialists colleagues in data collection techniques for different sectoral data such as fishery, agriculture, land use, livelihood etc.
- Serve as focal point for media and communications, drive and monitor the design, develop and deliver of an effective communication strategy for early recovery Project to increase public awareness of the Project.
- Draft press releases, success stories and case studies related to early recovery process and disseminate with media. Provide recovery related information to the media and other organizations as per their demand.
- Provide support to implement the relevant activities of the (IEC) Information Education Communication Project of work and related outreach activities of the Early Recovery Project.
- Provide technical support to early recovery stakeholders to design and disseminate analytical outputs, such as quarterly trend analysis, periodic recovery & development review and disseminate information products that are useful to the stakeholders engaged in the recovery process.
- Provide advisory support to the governorate level early recovery information analysis and management functions in order to ensure that information products and services continue to meet the needs.
- Provide technical advice to the local level government partners to promote data standards and give guidance on appropriate systems development.
- Supervise and monitor information system training on regular basis to ensure that activities are conducted as planned.
- Support the advocacy functions of the field office Seiyun through the collection, processing, storage and retrieval of geo-referenced data including images, of emergencies and vulnerability, as well as relief operations

Qualifications:

- Bachelor degree in information management, database administration or other relevant field with 5 years of experience in relevant field is required.
- Masters with at least 2 years of professional experience in relevant field is desirable but not required.
- Strong programming and GIS skills and excellent skills in presentation.
- Fluency in written and spoken English. Knowledge of Arabic is an asset.

Title: Microfinance Officer
Type of Contract: Service Contract – SB4/SB5
Duration of Assignment: One year (renewable)
Duty Station: Seiyun, Hadramout -Yemen

Responsibilities:

- Responsible for the overall coordination, management & implementation of the microfinance and cooperative development component of Early Recovery Project.
- Ensure cooperative development and other micro-finance Project activities are implemented according to the annual work plan whilst maintaining the flexibility to shift priorities according to the changing context.
- Monitor in regular basis the status of flood affected communities and their access to revolving fund, micro loan from their cooperatives.
- Assess the cooperative capacity in planning, management and implementation of recovery Projects and provide technical support towards improvement in organizational development.
- In line with early recovery Project the incumbent will formulate implementing program guidelines to NGOs and cooperatives which are providing microfinance loans, vocational training and other related services to micro-enterprises development.
- Maintain and develop effective and insightful monitoring procedures and build the capacity of the local authorities in micro-finance and cooperative development and monitoring.
- Identify the implementing partners, their capacity building and training needs, particularly as they relate to micro-finance and cooperative development.
- Provide regular narrative reports to the Project Manager with major achievements, challenges and recommendations.
- Support the development of local level micro-finance plans and strengthening of community organizations, NGOs, private sector action planning, implementation and awareness raising, integrating traditional knowledge and a focus on cooperatives and savings.
- Provide technical support to cooperatives for their sustainability by developing linkages and network, by providing training on cooperative management and financial management.
- Formulate plans to provide trainings needed at various levels and different phases of the Project and support to conduct training.
- Supervise and monitor cooperative development & microfinance training on regular basis to ensure that activities are conducted as planned.
- Monitor the market opportunities of the cooperatives and provide technical support for types of loan and saving product, repayment rate and other member
- Monitor the efficiency of cooperative executive committee, manager, and sub-committee members and provide technical support.
- Prepare a monthly progress report detailing the activities performed during the month, highlighting achievements and making recommendations for future activities

Qualifications:

- Bachelors degree in accounting, business management, social sciences or development studies with 5 years experience in relevant field is required
- Masters with at least 2 years experience is desirable but not required.
- Strong computer skills, Microsoft applications (in particular, Word, Excel and PowerPoint)
- Fluency in written and spoken Arabic;
- Good command in both written and spoken English.

Title: Social-Inclusion Officer
Type of Contract: Service Contract – SB4/SB5
Duration of Assignment: One year (renewable)
Duty Station: Seiyun, Hadramout -Yemen

Responsibilities:

- Responsible for the overall coordination, management & implementation of the social inclusion and gender issues in Early Recovery Project.
- Facilitate to mainstream vulnerable people especially flood affected people issues in local level recovery agenda by involving them as main partners of early recovery Project.
- Design and provide training courses or establish effective scheme for empowerment of vulnerable groups
- Design and conduct necessary awareness raising activities, and

develop integrative activities for inclusion of vulnerable groups participated by vulnerable groups and other community members;

- Facilitate to establish partnerships with early recovery stakeholders to address urgent recovery needs in the flood affected people.
- Provide technical guidance gender mainstreaming into all Early Recovery Project level activities by analyzing of this socio-economic and political structure in the Project area from a gender perspective.
- Support the planning, implementation monitoring and evaluation of recovery Project activities to ensure the participation of women, men, boys and girls.
- Visit on a regular basis in programme areas districts in order to monitor the gender effectiveness of the recovery programme implemented by the implementing partners.
- Support Project colleagues to fulfill their accountability with regards to gender mainstreaming, providing appropriate guidance and the expectation that this accountability will be exercised.
- Assess strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats of in terms of gender-in the early recovery Project.
- Prepare and deliver training support needed to strengthen the gender equity within Early Recovery Project implementation partners and other stakeholders.
- Prepare regular monitoring reports by assessing and recommending how to strengthen the gender & social inclusion issues. Collect noteworthy case studies about achievements and non-achievements occurring in the field.
- Propose program improvements based on the recommendations and findings from the field.
- Ensure that gender mainstreaming and social inclusion training outlays are appropriate with expected benefits to the early recovery Project objectives.
- Facilitate training and workshops for local authorities to support the social inclusion and gender mainstreaming in recovery Project.
- Prepare a monthly progress report detailing the activities performed during the month, highlighting achievements and making recommendations for future activities.
- Contribute gender-relevant data to the Project & governorate level early recovery coordination information management data base.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor degree in social sciences, gender study, social welfare or development studies with 5 years of experience relevant field is required.
- Masters with at least 2 years of professional experience is desirable but not required.
- Strong computer skills, Microsoft applications (in particular, Word, Excel and PowerPoint)
- Fluency in written and spoken Arabic & good command in both written and spoken English.

Only Online Applications will be accepted

For further details on the job description and online application, please visit our website at <http://jobs.undp.org>

Response will only be made to short listed candidates

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Basic Function:

Carries out a variety of duties such as may be performed by the Administrative Assistant I, plus additional duties such as training and providing guidance to the Administrative Assistant. Is capable of performing lead duties if project is assigned to Document Control group.

Job Duties:

May carry out any or all of the duties of the Administrative Assistant I. In addition, carries out the following:

- Trains Administrative Assistants. Includes showing them how to perform their duties, answering routine questions, and ensuring that work is performed consistently to established standards.
- Carries out other similar or related duties as required.

Minimum Requirements:

- Completion of Secondary education (12 years).
- 2 years' experience in document control in oil or construction industry. Excellent computer skills including Excel, Word, Projects.
- Very good knowledge of English.
- Valid Yemen driving license..

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❖ Applications **should be submitted NO later than Dec. 17th, 2010**. Faxed applications will not be considered.

❖ Make sure that you mention the job title you are applying for in the email subject.

❖ Only short listed candidates will be contacted.

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VQMI

Words of Wisdom



In the final analysis, it is in the hands of the people in charge of this country to make our transformation towards democracy real and meaningful. It would be unfortunate if the change in Yemen remains merely a show or something superficial. Our politicians need to believe in preparing for the 21st century. To do that, they have to internalize some new values.

Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,
(1951 - 1999)
Founder of Yemen Times

OUR
OPINIONCelebrating
Yemeni coffee

For once the news is good. Yemen is hosting the second International Arabica Naturals conference starting today.

Businessmen and coffee experts from around the world are here to give Yemeni coffee an appraisal and Yemen a chance. This conference, if nothing else, is a break from the bad news that keeps spreading locally and internationally – mainly about terrorism and poverty.

Yemen deserves this chance. And Yemeni coffee, which is one of the best brands in the world, also deserves recognition. After all, Yemen is the only country in the world that produces 100 percent sun-dried Arabica coffee.

There are around one million people in Yemen dependent on the coffee farming industry. The livelihood of those people is dependent on how well Yemeni coffee can be marketed to the world. As it is, many farmers are removing coffee trees and growing qat because it is easier and more profitable.

We need to rescue the Yemeni coffee tree. It is more than just business, it is also tradition and culture. For example, there are many interesting rituals involved in growing coffee trees such as the chants or songs people sing when planting the seedlings. Another ritual is the almost sacred process of collecting the cherries one-by-one, mostly by women.

Even drinking coffee traditionally is tied to many other cultural practices. The type, thickness and sweetness of the coffee brewed depends on the occasion – whether it is happy or sad, religious or general socializing.

There is so much to Yemeni coffee that it deserves to take up the front page headlines, even if only locally.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Behind drones in
Yemen, a struggle to
control covert ops

By: Gareth Porter
Khaleej Times

The drone war that has been anticipated in Yemen for the last few months has been delayed by the failure of US Special Operations Forces (SOF) to generate usable intelligence on Al Qaeda there.

That failure has given the CIA a new argument for wresting control of the drone war in Yemen from the Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC), which now controls the drone assets in the country. But some key administration officials are resisting a CIA takeover of the war in Yemen, as reported by the Washington Post.

The struggle between the CIA's operations directorate and SOF officials over management of a drone war in Yemen has been a driving force in pushing the war against Al Qaeda and affiliated organisations into many more countries – along with President Barack Obama's eagerness to show that he is doing more than his predecessor on terrorism. Both the CIA covert operations directorate and SOF brass regard the outcome in Yemen as the key to the larger struggle over control of a series of covert wars that the Obama administration approved in principle last year.

The CIA directorate and the two major figures in the Iraq-Afghanistan wars, Gen. David Petraeus and Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal, lobbied Obama in 2009 to expand covert operations against Al Qaeda to a dozen countries in the Middle East, the Horn of Africa and Central Asia. In spring 2009, McChrystal, then director of operations for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, persuaded the White House to give US combatant commanders wider latitude to carry out covert military operations against Al Qaeda or other organisations deemed to be terrorists, according to a May 25 report by Marc Ambinder of The Atlantic. Based on the Obama decision, on September 30, 2009, Petraeus issued an order creating a Joint Unconventional Warfare Task Force to plan and execute covert intelligence gathering in support of later covert military operations throughout the CENTCOM area.

The Petraeus order was followed within weeks by an influx of surveillance equipment and as many as 100 SOF trainers, as well as additional CIA personnel in Yemen, according to the Washington Post report.

With the support of McChrystal and Petraeus, who was then still CENTCOM chief, JSOC was given control of the covert operation in Yemen.

But JSOC stumbled badly and failed to

generate usable intelligence on Al Qaeda targets.

On December 17, less than three months after the Petraeus order, a cruise missile was launched against what was supposed to have been an Al Qaeda training camp in Abyan province in south Yemen.

But the strike, which was supposed to have been attributed to Yemen's tiny air force, was based on faulty intelligence. The Yemeni parliament found that it had killed 41 members of two families, including 17 women and 23 children. It was known almost immediately to have been a US strike. By all accounts, it was major political gift to AQAP, which has its sights set on toppling the government of President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Al Qaeda has also been able to justify targeting the United States as revenge for the Dec 17 attack. That may have been a reference to the two parcels from Yemen to an address in Chicago intercepted Oct 29, one of which was discovered to have "explosive material". After that strike, the CIA went on the offensive to get the administration to take control of the drones away from the SOF. A series of articles in the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal and the Associated Press in mid- to late August cited unnamed officials referring to the possibility of CIA drone operations in Yemen.

Col. Pat Lang, a former Defense Intelligence Officer for the Middle East with operational experience in Yemen, told IPS the CIA had benefited from JSOC stumbling.

"The agency has taken advantage of every criticism of the performance of the SOF as an argument to regain control over cover operations," said Lang. The report suggests that key officials now realise that neither JSOC nor the CIA is going to be able to obtain actionable intelligence on Al Qaeda under present circumstances.

Former DIA intelligence officer Lang agrees. He believes the Yemeni Intelligence Service, which is a "very effective secret police force" with "considerable penetration capability", is not fully sharing the intelligence it has on Al Qaeda with US officials.

For the time being, it appears the drone war in Yemen is abeyance. But powerful bureaucratic forces will be continuing to make the case that they can justify the beginning of drone strikes there.

AQAP leaders are hoping to see the US use more military force in Yemen, according to Johnsen. "They would like nothing better than for the US to invade Yemen," Johnsen told IPS. "The more they can show active US intervention, the better it is for them."

COMMON SENSE

The whole world is a stage
Good people, it's all
fallen out of our hands

It is really depressing to read the current spate of documents released by Wikileaks. One finds our world really getting closer to the world pictured by George Orwell, author of 1984, if not worse, as democratic institutions no longer guarantee the prevalence of moral principles and ethical standards. We live in a world where the power of the weak is at the bottom of the scale in the ability to influence global events and thus all this talk of empowerment of the grassroots constituents of nations remains a song as effective as 'Mary Had A Little Lamb' and as real as 'Three Blind Mice'. We live in times where the overwhelming population has succumbed to a world order that continues to flow the returns of exploited resources to the very few who cannot declare any worthwhile cause they have sponsored beyond dedicating some of their extravagant wealth towards goodwill enterprises that supposedly serve to restore some human beings towards sustainable existence. Although, not necessarily restoring any of their dignity and self-pride after having reached the abyss of destitution and perpetual poverty.

The world order we live in says that if you are a Muslim, you are a candidate for Sarah Palin's shooting spree or Ehud Barak's newly supplied gratis F-16s, thanks to the ever gullible American taxpayers, who watch in wonder as Israel continues to enjoy more Federal Government appropriations than those deserved by most states in the good old US of A. That doesn't matter as much as the fact that the United States has lost its leadership role in defining the moral and ethical standards by which our world should abide, if humanity is to arrive to the peaceful end that most of the prophets and messengers of God, philosophers and down-to-earth idealists have striven to achieve.

This was sometimes at great sacrifice to themselves and their few courageous constituencies who saw in their missions deliverance of mankind from the evils disseminated by the likes of George Bush, Dick Cheney, Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, Benjamin Netanyahu, Avigdor Lieberman, the Wahhabi Establishment (in its temporal and spiritual manifestations), the International Zionist Establishment, the American Military Industrial Complex and... the list is exhaustive.

The latter now enjoy an uncontrollable world in which they can continue pursuing their mischievous theatrics ranging from Al-Qaeda to oil leaks in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Mexico, to the fashion shows in Paris, New York and Sao Paulo, and to misunderstood bank failures by financial institutions that were once thought to be the bedrock of the Western financial establishment.

How many trillions of greenbacks overflowed in the pockets of the few who control these affiliates of the New World Order? Notwithstanding the fact that these cut-throats have no care or feeling towards all the blood that must be spilled, all the destitution that arises, all the suffering orphans that must continue to seek out for the handouts that Western NGOs dish out, in an effort to placate for the mischief of the masters of the societies in which they are incorporated.

It is a vicious cycle from the drawing boards of the strategic think-tanks or scholastic institutions that work day and night to lay the grounds for their mischievous masters to unleash their instruments of death and wanton destruction all over this world under different pretexts, most of which would never make sense to the thousands of buried souls that have died in order to uphold Western norms and to ensure that the uncivilized West continues its rape of the world without interruption by these advocates of Satan's cause on earth.

Surely, we can still find room in Western consciences among the institutors that tend to insist that their interests prevail over all human lives that must be, even if necessary, eradicated to ensure that the flow of oil is uncut to the factories and power plants of the Western world. Even if all the rest of the world remains without power and if the people of Gaza never enjoy the magic of the incandescent lamp and neon lights that are secondary in the minds of most of the residents of New York and Las Vegas. The latter is said to have also fallen victim to the hoarding of the Western banking system, and even the mafia could not save the city from the more powerful monsters that reign over the Western banking system and their scheming and wiling away.

Never mind that these monsters have eaten away at the lifetime savings of most of the middle class, but still they would go and bleed the coffers of the government that has heretofore closed its eyes to all the tax evasion and tax breaks that they have enjoyed for decades. Over a trillion dollars was handed out to failing enterprises that were apparently under the most notorious failsafe managements and guaranteed lucrative bonuses for their failures beyond logical comprehension. So to compensate for this undue extravagance, Obama saw fit to cut the pay raises of any federal employees and to be suckered into extending tax breaks to the big mob. Something very fishy indeed is going on and it is time for someone to explain all this mediocrity to the rest of humanity. We had hoped for much better from Obama indeed, but alas we can stop wasting time on such a hope. We can stop wasting our time on any hope as long as the elements of mischief prevail in a Western world devoid of moral and ethical inclinations.

As for the leaders of the rest of the world, we know quite well that they are powerless.

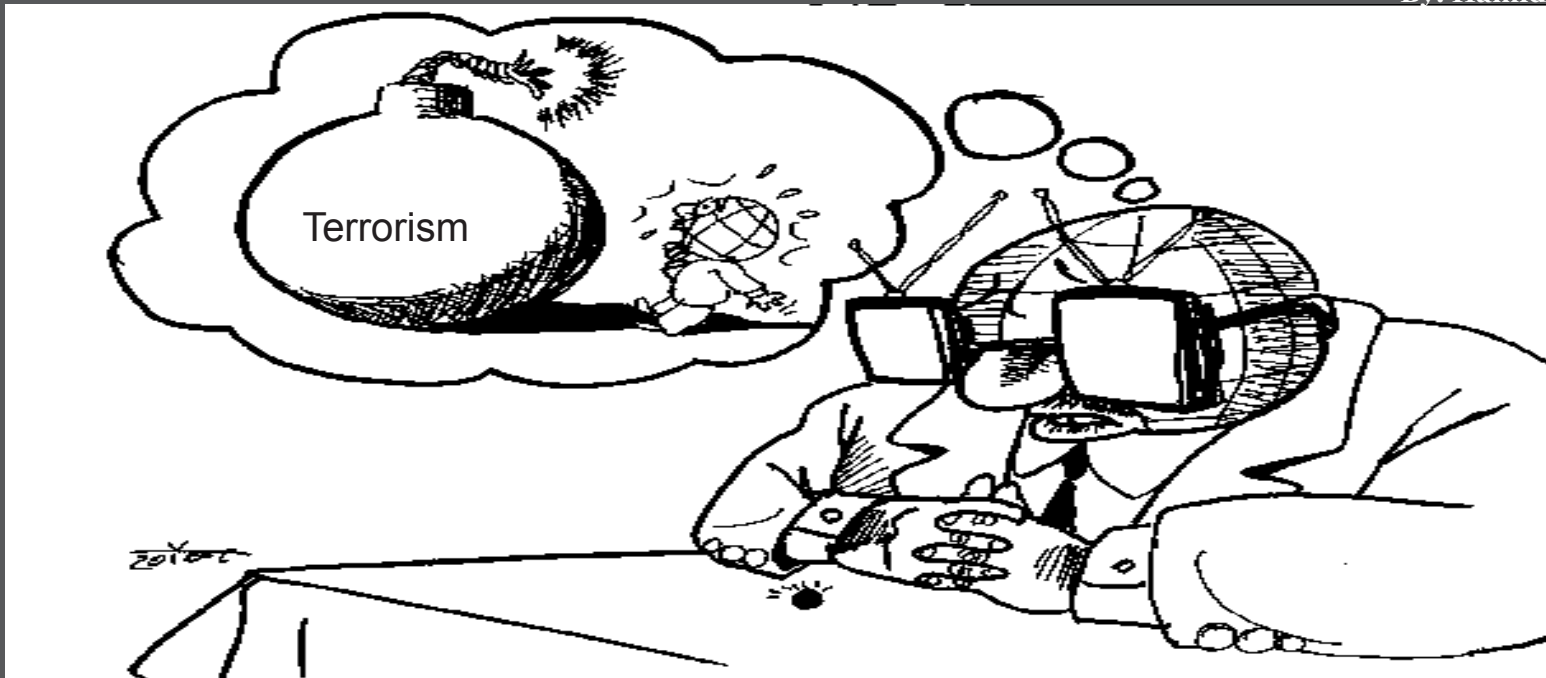
Hassan Al-Haifi has been a Yemeni political economist and journalist for more than 20 years. His blog may be read at: <http://com-senfromyem.blogspot.com>



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

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Qatar achieves World Cup goal, now the real game begins...

By: Benjamin Peim
The Media Line

The 2022 World Cup is sure to be a new soccer experience. Spectators are not just there to see high-tempo games but for the carnival-like atmosphere in the streets, where fans drink, dance and party as they cheer on their national team to sweep past its opponents to glory.

But soccer fans could be in for something starkly different in 2022, when the month-long tournament heads to Qatar, a tiny Gulf emirate with sweltering summers, conservative values and so few people that its entire population amounts to about half the 3.2 million people who attended the 2010 soccer championship in South Africa.

The tiny emirate will be the first Middle Eastern country to host the tournament, which attracts millions of fans, billions of dollars and — if the event is staged without any serious hitches — enhances the global image of its host. But to be successful the emirate will have to contend with a host of challenges.

The Qataris are confident that they can pull it off. "I can personally promise that we will not let you down," Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad Al-Thani, the chairman of Qatar's bid team, at a press conference last week after International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) awarded the World Cup to Qatar.

Held once every four years, the tournament is a pressure-cooker for the players, but how will they perform in the frying Qatari sun? Will games be won by the team whose players finish the game without all fainting?

Qatari temperatures are significantly higher than anything most players have ever experienced outside of a sauna. Summer temperatures reach a scorching 50-degrees-centigrade (120 degrees Fahrenheit).

Qatar's answer is air conditioning, which is a more technically complicated solution that it appears because FIFA regulations require World Cup games be played under an open-roof stadium. Officials are confident they can build an arena exposed to the desert heat above and briskly cool on the playing field. Making the best of the country's relentless sunlight, solar-powered air conditioners will provide a three-meter (10-foot) high layer of cool air at player level.

Indeed, a 500-seat mock-up facility was built earlier this year by Qatar to show FIFA officials that Qatari plan was more than a mirage.

"It's not any type of miracle or anything," engineer Jeff Willis, of Arup Associates, the architectural and engineering firm that built the stadium, told The Media Line. "It can be done."

However, Willis acknowledged that full-scale stadiums of this sort for 50,000 spectators or more — and Qatar needs at least 10 of these for the World Cup — have never been built before.

While oil- and gas-rich Qatar doesn't lack the money for this endeavor, some FIFA insiders remain skeptical about the air conditioned stadiums. Franz Beckenbauer, a legendary soccer figure who won the World Cup for Germany both as player (1974), and as a coach (1990), has speculated that the tournament could be shifted to the winter for the first time ever in the event's history to avoid the heat.

"In January or February, you have a comfortable 25 degrees there," Beckenbauer told German newspaper Bild. "Plans for the biggest leagues would have to change for 2022, but that would not be a major undertaking."

A winter tournament, however, would come right in the middle of the European leagues' season, which lasts from late August to May. Many find it hard to believe that the top European clubs and federations would accept a two-month hole in the season to let their players participate in the tournament. They would stand to lose millions of dollars. Players would return to their clubs to finish the season physically drained.

"It's more or less impossible. If FIFA tried to force clubs to do that, they'd have a large-scale rebellion on their hands," Stefan Szymanski, an economics professor at the City University of London, who has conducted research on the business side of the game, told The Media Line.

Then there are the fans. This will be the first World Cup played in the Arab

world, an area many associate with terrorism and seen at times inhospitable to liberal Western behaviors. Qatar is also a short distance away from violence-torn Iraq and from Iraq, with whom the West is conducting a war of nerves over Tehran's nuclear ambitions. That could scare off World Cup fans, most of whom traditionally hail from Europe and the U.S.

Szymanski, co-author of *Soccernomics*, a book exploring the sport through the lens of statistics and social science, said he wasn't concerned. If Western fans stay home, their seats could be taken by fans from the Arab world. And, if Western spectators do come in huge numbers, experts say the risk of the World Cup being targeted by terrorists is no greater in Qatar than anywhere else.

"There are no security risks in Qatar that wouldn't exist in other places. Any major event anywhere would be a target nowadays," Gerd Nonneman, professor of Arab Gulf studies at Britain's University of Exeter, told The Media Line.

But, fans aren't just interested in the matches. They also come to party, mix with locals and generally have a good time. That might be tough to pull off in a conservative Muslim country where many women wear veils, alcohol is banned save for a few hotels, and drinking and being drunk in public can land you in jail.

Nonneman said the Qatari authorities would never consider relaxing their alcohol ban — even temporarily — during

the month-long tournament.

"Drinking is going to be something of an issue," Nonneman speculated. "Not as many of the typical drinking buddies will go. But it will be a case of managing expectations. I don't think it'll be impossible."

"The fans are going to be bussed from hotels to the games," he added. "So they won't be interacting with Qataris in their daily lives in ways that will be problematic."

About three million fans typically flock to the World Cup, almost twice the country's population of 1.7 million. When millions of soccer fans arrive, the country could see its population temporarily double, if not triple. Experts, however, said there was no temporary population explosion that money couldn't contain.

"It's enormously challenging," said Nonneman. "It'll be expensive, but money's one thing they're not short of."

FIFA requires host countries to have 12 stadiums for the World Cup, but Qatar only boasts three, right now. It also lacks a completed public transportation system. The country will have to engage in a massive building project to construct more stadiums, and supply accommodations for the World Cup to meet fans' needs.

Nonneman said that rather than build lots of hotel rooms that would become empty the day after the World Cup, Qatar would probably employ cruise ship anchored close to shore to house

fans. The neighboring island kingdom of Bahrain would probably share in the soccer spoils, putting up many fans, as well.

If all those aren't enough challenges, traditionally, a part of a successful World Cup is the host team's advancing past the opening playoffs.

Indeed, FIFA goes a long way to ensure that the host team stands a good chance of moving past the opening round by awarding the host team a top seed when the 32 competing teams are divided into eight groups of four.

In fact, only one host country has ever been knocked out in the first round when South Africa was knocked out early in last summer's tournament. When the United States hosted the tournament in 1994, it progressed out of the opening stage for the first time since it made the semi-finals in the very-first World Cup in 1930. Ranked 113th in FIFA's official rankings, Qatar has never come close to qualifying for the World Cup. Moreover, none of its players compete in major European leagues.

Commentators say they aren't concerned. Even if the emirate doesn't improve its soccer pedigree between now and 2022, Qatar can expect to bask in the global limelight as a place of progress and development as long as it successfully pulls off the tournament without a hitch.

"I don't think it makes a difference anyway," said Szymanski. "The exposure is about hosting the event, not competing in it."

Saudi Arabia launches its first-ever domestically designed car

By: Arieh O'Sullivan
The Media Line

It's called the "Original" and marks the first time Saudi Arabia has launched a domestically designed and manufactured automobile sedan.

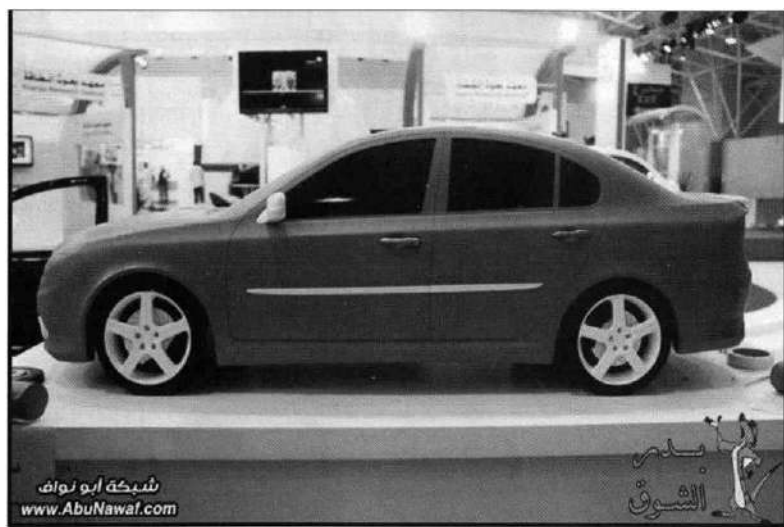
The four-passenger Aseel was revealed in Riyadh at the International Exhibition for Motor Vehicles this week. The Aseel was designed by King Abdul Aziz City for Science and Technology (KACST), and officials said it was to serve as the basis for a domestic auto manufacturing industry that Saudi Arabia is trying to develop.

There were few details released, but the sedan was touted to be lower in cost than imports. Exhibited at the motor show, the simple four-door model was reported being priced at no more than \$13,300.

The Saudi vehicle was designed and built by the National Program for Automobile Technology, an affiliate of KACST. KACST estimated that the cost of its production line was about \$16 million and had the capacity to produce between 2,000 to 5,000 cars annually.

That would be a drop in the bucket in an auto market that Business Monitor International forecasted earlier this year would grow from 676,000 units to 880,000, an increase of just over 30%, between 2010 and 2013.

"This would certainly open up possibilities for employment," Ali Abdul-Rahman



Al-Mazad, a Saudi economic columnist, told The Media Line. "This won't be easy but perhaps they will be able to receive aid from foreign car manufacturers."

He added that foreign car companies had been interested in opening assembly plants in Saudi Arabia in order to lower costs for cars to be sold in the region.

Saudi Arabia has become infamous in the Arab world in general, and in the Gulf in particular, for the local appetite for expensive cars. Yet, the small car segment is the fastest growing market in the Saudi Arabian automobile industry. It accounted for about a quarter of all vehicles sold this year. Leading industry analysts

have said that this was due to increased demand for four-seater sedans.

"There is a potential market for this since there's a wide gap in salaries and there are those looking for lower end cars," Paul Martin, one of the founders of Street Kings Arabia, a Saudi aficionado group, told The Media Line.

Last March, engineers from King Saud University debuted the sports utility vehicle (SUV) Ghazal, the first vehicle said to be designed and manufactured in Saudi Arabia. The government is currently seeking investments between \$400 million and \$500 million to manufacture 20,000 units of the SUV over the next

three years in KSU's technology valley in Riyadh.

KACST calls itself an independent scientific organization that reports to the prime minister. It is also seen as Saudi Arabia's national science agency and its national laboratories, which could mean it will be able to receive government funding.

Saad Al-Wallan, chairman of Al-Wallan Trading Company, which imports Hyundai cars, said the year 2010 has recorded a 25% growth in the small car market.

"The growth of 25% that we have seen

is in the small car segment. Sales of small cars is certainly the biggest growth segment in Saudi Arabia automobile industry," he was quoted as saying in The Saudi Gazette.

One of the Middle East's largest car markets, automobile sales make up about 3% of Saudi Arabia's gross domestic product. Including both commercial automobiles and transport infrastructure, the kingdom's car market is worth about \$9 billion. With a population of just under 25 million, over half a million vehicles are imported into Saudi Arabia annually

and new car sales have steadily increased since the country began barring the import of used cars four years ago.

Over the past two decades, Saudi Arabia has recorded four million traffic accidents, leading to 86,000 deaths and 611,000 injuries, 7% of which resulted in permanent disabilities. A recent KACST study warned that if the current rise in road accident rates is not curbed, Saudi Arabia will have over four million traffic accidents a year by 2030. Little is known about the new car, particularly about its safety features.

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR CONSULTANCY WORK (NO-B LEVEL)

The United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) Yemen seeks the services of a highly qualified Yemeni national candidate to be hired as consultant to support the preparation of a Child and Youth Yearbook for Yemen

Duration of work: 10 weeks
Location: Sana'a

Objectives and scope of work

The consultancy will support the Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood (HCMC), the Central Statistical Office (CSO) and UNICEF in the development of a Yearbook, based on the National Strategy for Children and Youth (2006-2015). As the process is already underway, assistance is required particularly in:

- Review and verification of the information and data collected.
- Coordinating the work of collaborating partners, and ensuring compliance with the deadlines and standards agreed upon.
- Compilation and drafting of the yearbook.

Specific Tasks

The consultant is expected to undertake the following tasks based on the concept note and methodology adopted for the preparation of a Yearbook on Children and Youth in Yemen:

1. Collate and write-up information collected by HCMC on activities undertaken by relevant line ministries in support of the NSCY and Action Plan.
2. Support CSO in verification and presentation of the data, the identification of gaps, and the development of a strategy to fill these.
3. Review and edit basic descriptive analyses of yearbook indicators and tables, graphs, and maps produced by CSO.
4. Review and edit analyses of information systems and existing M&E capacities in line ministries on basis of assessment conducted in 2009.
5. Compile Yearbook in line with the structure outlined in the concept note

Expected Deliverables and period

Task	Deliverable	Time frame
1. Collate and write-up information on activities undertaken by line ministries that contribute to achieving NSCY targets (with HCMC)	Report on status of line ministries initiatives	week 1-2
2. Verify and finalize dataset available for yearbook indicators (with CSO)	Database with yearbook indicators	week 1-3
3. Draft sections of Yearbook related to basic descriptive analysis of indicators, and tables, graphs, and maps (with CSO)	Paragraphs yearbook	week 4-5
4. Draft analysis of information systems and existing M&E capacities in line ministries (with UNICEF and CSO)	Paragraphs yearbook	week 6
5. Draft section of yearbook related to data gaps and strategy to address gaps (with CSO and HCMC)	Paragraphs yearbook	week 7
6. Preparation and submission of first draft of Yearbook	Draft version yearbook	week 8-9
7. Integration of Feedback from stakeholders		week 10
8. Finalisation of Report	Final draft yearbook	week 10

Expected background and Experience

- Yemeni National
- Advanced university degree in statistics, demography, social sciences, or other relevant discipline.
- Minimum of 5 years' experience in relevant field.
- Excellent writing skills and excellent command of English and Arabic languages.
- Excellent analytical and presentation skills.
- Good organizational, interpersonal and communication skills.
- Ability to work independently, with minimal supervision.
- Demonstrated ability to meet deadlines.

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Highlight of The 20th Arabian Gulf Cup closing events :

SabaFon awards prize for international roaming offer

سبافون GSM
SABAFON

Heritage meets communication

Last Monday evening, SabaFon, the first and biggest G.S.M operator in Yemen held a special celebration in Yemen's commercial capital, Aden.

The celebration included a huge prize draw for SabaFon's international roaming offer, which started at the beginning of the 20th Arabian Gulf Cup tournament and was held in Aden Mall. The evening began with verses of holly Quran being read by Shahd Fares Hamoud.

Following the introduction Mr. Mohammed Al-Shami, SabaFon marketing senior manager, delivered a welcome address to all visitors from the Gulf countries and wished them a pleasant stay in Yemen. Mr. Mohammed Al-Shami confirmed in his speech that SabaFon is not just a telecommunication company but also an interactive and important part of society. Furthermore, Mr.

Mohammed Al-Shami pointed out that SabaFon has developed and changed the telecommunications perspective in Yemen asserting that the Company still has more to provide and will not stop at their latest achievements. Soon after, Aden Gulf Theater Band presented a comedic play, attracting great admiration from the audience. The draw was then started, which included more than 240 gold and silver numbers while promotional gifts were distributed to all the participants.

In the presence of Shaikh Qahtan Bin Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar and many leading businessmen, the prize-draw was performed and the winning number announced. The grand prize of the international roaming offer was a BMW 2011.



In this Special Report for the Yemen Times, writer Ayham Al-Otoom investigates the role of the government in combatting drugs. He also interviews former drug addicts to find out how drugs affected their lives. And he looks at the social impacts of drug abuse.

Government needs more resources to combat drugs



Millions of dollars worth of drugs were destroyed in Yemen (as seen above) last year. Photo:

There are hundreds of Yemeni men and women who are increasingly drawn to abusing drugs, both illegal and pharmaceutical.

The country's Ministry of Interior has an Anti-Narcotics Department which is the only government department that deals with this issue as its main focus. Although it was established only three years ago, it has undertaken several operations to catch drug users and destroy seized drugs.

However, a lack of personnel and resources prevents the department from being very effective in combating narcotics in Yemen. In 2009, the department had 33 cases involving 60 suspected drug dealers. In 2008, there were 31 cases in which 64 people were involved.

Dr. Musab Al-Sofi is deputy director of the Anti-Narcotics Department, and said that Yemen's strategic location and its proximity to countries with high GDPs makes it an ideal transit country for drug trafficking.

"Drugs come from the east, from places such as Afghanistan and Pakistan, and are transported through Yemen to Gulf

countries, especially Saudi Arabia. This is why we have a responsibility not only to the local community but towards our neighbors," said Al-Sofi.

Al-Sofi said that there was an increasing trend of drug abuse and drug dealers because this was a lucrative trade. Most Yemenis who take drugs are young – sometimes even young children – who are surrounded by unstable families or who are tempted to take drugs by bad company.

However, according to the department, heavier drugs such as opium and crystal meth are less common in Yemen than in other countries. Al-Sofi said that his department was in constant communication with the Ministry of Health to control over-the-counter sales of medicines that could be addictive.

He added that there are no specific statistics on drug abuse in Yemen due to society's fear of talking about it openly, which hinders the collection of statistics.

Dr. Muhammed Abdul-Mujeeb Al-Kholaidi, director of the National Program for Mental Health, said that there were no laws in Yemen to force pharma-

cists to reduce the usage of medicines that cause addiction.

Dr. Ahmed Al-Lahabi, head of public relations at the Ministry of Information, said that the ministry has several programs in the public media, especially TV, on the dangers of drugs. The Yemeni Satellite Channel has shown some programs targeting youth to educate them about drugs.

Mohammed Al-Radmi, head of programs at Yemeni TV, said that information on drug abuse had featured on programs such as 'Good morning Yemen' and 'End of the Week'. He said that the channel does not carry out campaigns, but rather sheds light on various activities.

Ismail Ali Zaidan, head of educational media at the Ministry of Education, said that the ministry was trying to integrate subjects relating to drugs into the syllabus, or at least in extra curricula activities, targeting both students and teachers.

"We signed an agreement between the ministry and the General Book Corporation to provide educational books on drugs to school libraries," said Zaidan.

is still limited towards this issue," said Al-Salahi.

He said that the most useful ways for youth to spend their leisure time was via social and sport clubs. However, unfortunately, 70 percent of Yemen's rural inhabitants do not have cultural clubs. In the city, there are not enough public gardens. Also, schools and universities do not have clubs for entertainment or leisure and there are no public libraries.

Al-Salahi said that the drug problem opened the gate for other crimes as the user would look for money to support their addiction. This would also lead to moral deviation

Personal stories: Addiction and Rehabilitation

Painful divorce leads to addiction

At only 31 years of age she felt as though her life was over. She was a divorcee in a society that frowns upon divorced women. She was further depressed when her husband took away her only child and her family relentlessly made her feel unworthy.

This led her to choose drug addiction as a family that would help her to forget her sorrows and worries. She used to get drugs from a drug dealer. She used them with her friends. She said that she started with hashish, then opium, and finally took hallucination pills with qat.

While her domestic repression due to her divorce was one of the main causes of her drug addiction, her luxurious lifestyle made it easier. She used hashish four to six times a day and opium three times a day at her neighbor's house. The daily cost of this was between YR 1,000 to YR 5,000 a day. She totally lost her appetite, which caused her body to fade away in an incredibly short time.

She thought that this would let her forget all her grief and make her happy. Her friends did not want her to quit drugs. They didn't want her to leave or expose them. They used to tell her that treatment would be useless and harm their health.

They convinced her that the best solution was addiction and that the addict's body was untreatable. She was lucky that her aunt found out that she was addicted to drugs. Her aunt noticed that she was acting strangely. Her aunt took her to Egypt for treatment, which lasted 18 months. After being cured she successfully completed her education at the Faculty of Arts and is now employed.

Drugs an attempt to block out misery

RA is from a modest Syrian family. She is an IT graduate working at a foreign company and has a high salary. Her father is dead and she lives alone with her mother. Her only brother is in a mental hospital. RA said that she gets drugs from a friend at work. She was using hashish and opium.

She started taking drugs after she had undergone a mastectomy for breast cancer which worsened her psychological state. She was still suffering from breast

cancer. She resorted to drugs to forget about her misery.

She used drugs three times a day. She thought that the drug dealer was the only one who sympathised with her suffering. His drugs were her lifeline. But he was actually not feeling sorry for her, but was rather happy to meet her demand for more drugs.

RA's mother discovered her addiction when she left hashish in the bathroom. Her drug addiction's daily cost was between YR 2,000 and YR 5,000. With deep sorrow, she said that the drugs had a negative impact on her despite all the ecstasy she used when using them.

When the drug dealer did not have drugs to give her she suffered severe headaches, dizziness, nausea and sweating.

She thought that addiction and escaping her problems was the only solution. But she ended up with two problems – addiction and breast cancer. Worse, she was even forced to have sex. Her relationship was limited to the drug dealer who also became her boyfriend.

At last, with the combined effort of her mother, a friend who was a doctor and also a pharmacist, she managed to get treatment in Jordan over three years. She said she felt happier once she had stopped using drugs.

Addiction leads to murder

Ahmed belongs to a middle-income family. His father worked as an executive manager at a commercial company. His problems started when his father passed away. Unlike his father, Ahmed paved a way to death for himself with his own hands, unaware of the bad consequences of addiction.

After his father's death, Ahmed had a severe psychological crisis. He was the eldest child and was suffering from hallucinations and insomnia. His mother took him to a psychiatrist who prescribed acetylcholine pills.

Ahmed took the pills for 18 months though he was supposed to stop taking them after his recovery. Ahmed preferred living in a fake happiness without facing reality, and even worse, was unable to live without the anonymous killer known as acetylcholine. Ahmed

met the wrong friends who led him to take other drugs.

Ahmed's mother was shocked when she knew about her son's situation. She was still thinking about her late husband. She tried to stop Ahmed's addiction by reducing his pocket money. Ahmed did not care because his bad friends were ready to meet the needs of anyone who would follow them.

They generously provided him with a large number of pills, enough for a whole hospital. His friends started getting fed up with Ahmed, especially when he did not have enough money. They started abusing him and then cut off their relationship with him. Ahmed was shocked, and there was no way for him to get the pills except through theft.

He broken into his addicted friend's houses and stole some pills and a laptop. However, one of his friends entered the house and saw him. They started quarrelling and then Ahmed killed him.

Marital problems mixed with drugs

FM is married and was addicted to heroin. She said that she became addicted because of her 'bad' husband. After her marriage, which took place directly after her graduation, her husband forced her to use drugs. She was shocked but there was no mercy left in her husband's heart.

Her husband used to ask her to do bad things after she took drugs. If she had refused, he would have punished and beaten her violently. As it is well known, the addict's body is weak and that is why she was obliged to meet all his mean wishes so as not to be deprived of drugs.

She used heroin three times a day. She said her husband used to pay for it and she had no idea about its cost. She could not manage to continue her life with him and she told her family everything. Her family got her a divorce and secretly got her rehabilitation treatment.

After her treatment, FM started working as a teacher in a kindergarten. Then she got remarried and is now living in peace. She advises any addict to ask for help and get treated because addiction destroys the body, thoughts and feelings.

Social effects of drugs

Sociologist Dr. Fuad Al-Salahi believes that a person may become a drug addict either by keeping the wrong company or by experimenting with drugs even once.

He said that some youth also started using drugs when they wanted to rebel or thought that drugs worked as an aphrodisiac.

Al-Salahi said that this issue had to be dealt with seriously from three perspectives. He said that the country's government should bear its responsibility and devote all possible efforts to deal with this threat before it worsened.

He said that society also played an important role in combating this phenomenon. He said that religious and cultural groups should raise awareness about the dangers of drugs.

The family also played a vital role in putting an end to addiction, especially since drug dealers targeted youngsters as they formed the majority and had spending power. Families should direct their youth to utilize their free time usefully and that society should make available the means for that.

"Yemeni society suffers from a drug problem, which affects the social values and the family in Yemen. I think their awareness

to get money, or addicts would join a certain group that poses a threat to society. Al-Salahi said that drugs also destroyed the addict's nervous system.

There are only a few civil society initiatives in Yemen that target youth and drug addiction.

The Al-Safwa initiative is one of these and has conducted workshops and awareness sessions to educate youth about the risks of drugs and how it affects society.

"We have done awareness events through caricatures, art, songs, theater and other creative forms to attract youth and convey the message to them," said Marwa Ba'abad, who is a co-founder of the initiative.

Dr. Muhammed Abdul-Mujeeb Al-Khulaidi, director of the National Program for

Mental Health, said that various treatments for addiction existed. He said that treatment started psychologically. He clarified how important it was to treat the addict as a normal person and support him psychologically.

Al-Khulaidi said this is necessary as the addict undergoes a period of disappointment and despair. He talked about the withdrawal period, through which the addict should take certain medicines to calm him down. However, these drugs are not available in Yemen. The withdrawal period starts from the time the addict stops using the drugs until he gets fully treated.

He also indicated that palliative medicine is often the starting point for addiction, when a person becomes addicted to pain relievers that are prescribed to ease the pain of a medical condition.

He said that a stumbling block to treatment was that the addict's family was often afraid to reveal the addict's condition because they feared shame, stigma, the law and punishment. This hindered the addict's treatment.

Al-Khulaidi said that drug addiction mostly crept up on more fragmented families and that most addicts were from wealthier families. He said that the Interior Ministry did not have the financial support to undertake field surveys and treatment, let alone the country's need for medical specialists dealing with drug addiction.

On the other hand, he said that the ministry was carrying out continuous awareness raising campaigns at schools and universities about drug addiction, its negative impacts and ways to avoid it.

Ministry of Education (MoE) Basic Education Development Project (BEDP) Project Administration Unit (PAU) Credit No. 3988-Yem & Grant No. TF-053721 & KFW2004 66 268) Request for Expressions of Interest Large-scale survey of households, schools, and communities to be used for the Evaluation of Conditional Cash Transfers (CCT)

This request for Expressions of interest follows the General procurement Notice for this project that appeared in the UN Development Business and Dg Market dated Feb 2, 2005. The Ministry of Education (MOE), Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA), Multi Donor Grant and KfW Grant and intends to apply part of the proceeds for the above consulting service.

The Project Administration Unit now invites eligible Firms to indicate their interest in providing the services for conducting a large-scale survey of households, schools, and communities to be used for the Evaluation of Conditional Cash Transfers (CCT).

The work will include preparation of the field activities (including questionnaire revision, hiring and training of enumerators, logistics for field work), implementation of the survey in the field to a high standard of quality (including supervision and data verification), data entry, and delivery of clean datasets and documentation. The survey will take place in Hodeidah Governorate and will include up to 5000 households, 200 schools and 200 communities.

Interested consulting firms must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of Core Business & year in Business, experience in similar assignments, Technical & Managerial organization of the firm, General Qualifications of the firm, and availability of appropriate skills among staff). Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications.

The selection of the Consulting Firms will be made in accordance with the procedure set out in the World Bank's Guidelines 'Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers, May 2004'. Interested consultants may obtain further information during working days Sat to Wed from 08:30 AM to 3:00 PM at the address below.

Expression of interest must be delivered to the address below by December 29, 2010.

Basic Education Development project
60 m Southern Rd-Bait Meyad
Attention: Dr Ahmed Al-arashi
TEL: 00967-01-619163/4, FAX: 00967-01-619219
Email: The project Director: a.al-arashi@edpau.org
Email: The procurement Assistant: yemsam71@yahoo.com



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Programme invites Yemeni nationals to apply for the following volunteer position with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Post Title: Community Services Clerk
Location: Aden

Responsibilities:
Under the supervision of the Assistant Community Services Officer the UNV volunteer will be required to perform the following duties:

- Provide counseling, referral and protection services to refugees presenting themselves at the office;
- Ensure that referral to other agencies and services corresponds to the genuine needs of the refugees seeking UNHCR assistance and to the guidelines and procedures agreed with the agencies concerned;
- Liaise with implementing and operational partners to ensure effective coordination of the referral and counseling services offered at the duty station;
- Ensure that refugees receive appropriate medical care;
- Maintain comprehensive records of individual cases received and of referral and counseling services provided;
- Assists the Community Services staff with interpretation and translation, counseling of refugees, particularly those who have suffered any trauma, medical cases or having special social problems;
- Draft reports on incidents involving individual cases especially Best Interest Assessments for the unaccompanied and separated children;

Qualifications:

- Completion of the Secondary education with post secondary training/certificate in social work, community services or related field;
- Minimum 2 years of previous relevant job experience
- Computer skills (MS office applications);
- Fluency in English

Interested candidates are requested to send their cover letter and C.V. to unvve.info@undp.org Subject: Community Services Clerk- Aden

National UN Volunteers are not paid a salary for their services. Instead, they are provided with a volunteer living allowance, \$ 475 per month in addition to hazard allowances.

UNV is an equal opportunity organization and female candidates are encouraged to apply. Deadline for receiving applications is 17 December 2010.



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Programme invites Yemeni nationals to apply for the following volunteer position with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Post Title: Community Services Specialist
Location: Aden

Responsibilities:
Under the supervision of the Assistant Community Services Officer the UNV volunteer will be required to perform the following duties:

- Provide counseling, referral and protection services to refugees presenting themselves at the office;
- Ensure that referral to other agencies and services corresponds to the genuine needs of the refugees seeking UNHCR assistance and to the guidelines and procedures agreed with the agencies concerned;
- Ensure that refugees receive appropriate medical care;
- Maintain comprehensive records of individual cases received and of referral and counseling services provided;
- Liaises and coordinates with officials of relevant institutions involved in planning and implementation of assistance to individual refugees;
- Monitor Community Services implementing partner's activities at the field level and coordinate activities among the partners through field coordination meetings.
- Assists the Community Services staff with interpretation and translation, counseling of refugees, particularly those who have suffered any trauma, medical cases or having special social problems;
- Draft reports on incidents involving individual cases especially Best Interest Assessments for the unaccompanied and separated children;

Qualifications:

- University Degree in social work, community services or related field;
- Minimum 5 years of previous job experience
- Good Computer skills (MS office applications);
- Fluency in English

Interested candidates are requested to send their cover letter and C.V. to unvve.info@undp.org Subject: Community Services Specialist- Aden

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

UNV is an equal opportunity organization and female candidates are encouraged to apply. Deadline for receiving applications is 17 December 2010.



JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Oxfam, an international NGO working with others to find lasting solutions to poverty and suffering, has been working in Yemen since 1983. Oxfam announces the following vacancy for its Programme

Public Health Promoter Assistant (2 Positions)

Contract Duration: (Up to 31 March 2011, possible extension subject to secure additional funding)

Location: 1 Amman & 1 Haradh

The role

In this key role, you'll be working jointly with Oxfam public health team to supervise the implementation of Public Health Programmes with Oxfam's partners, ensure full compliance with required standards, help in community mobilization and support the community based public health promoters / water users' access includes developing training materials.

What we're looking for

A suitable qualification and experience in a discipline related to Public Health Promotion. You will need to prove ability to work with local partners and understanding of community-based and gender-sensitive approaches to water and sanitation work in emergency relief Programmes. You will have influential communication skills in both Arabic and English, and your ability to gain the confidence, trust, and respect of everyone around you.

Public Health Engineer Assistant

Contract Duration: (Up to 31 March 2011, possible extension subject to secure additional funding)

Location: Haradh

The role

In this key role, you'll be working closely with Public Health Engineer Team to assist in identifying, designing and constructing water and sanitation facilities that meet community needs. Moreover, you will supervise local constructors, masons, carpenters, skilled and unskilled labors within the community. You will assist and follow on water network and tanks construction and undertake regular water quality test at the main water points and households.

What we're looking for

Qualified in any Public Health Engineering related discipline, you should also have worked with water and sanitation systems. Any additional experience in emergency relief would obviously be an advantage, proving your resilience and ability to maintain team work under pressure. Diplomatic and tactful, you'll be a sensitive and practiced communicator, able to keep a calm head and reassure those around you. You will have influential communication skills in both Arabic and English, and your ability to gain the confidence, trust, and respect of everyone around you.

To apply

If you believe that you have the qualifications and skills to excel in either of these positions, please send a copy of your CV and a cover letter, clearly stating the job you are applying for, to yemenjobs@oxfam.org.uk or send a fax to 01 450170.

Closing date for applications is 22nd December 2010

Please apply immediately as we will be interviewing suitable candidates before the closing date

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250 ml (8.4 fl oz)

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Come and celebrate New Years Eve at the newly opened 5 Star Al Qasr Hotel & Resort.
Enjoy our sumptuous Gala Buffet with live cooking stations and dance the night away to our resident DJ, Singer and Egyptian dancer outside by our spacious pool area only \$65 per person included tax.
Dinner 8.00pm and dancing till 2.00am

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AL QASR HOTEL & RESORT

Happy New Year

Celebrate the New Year in style at the newly opened 5 Star Al Qasr Hotel & Resort

In celebration of the recent opening, we offer you a special 3 night package including:

- Accommodation in a double room.
- Breakfast buffet for 2 persons.
- New Year's Eve Gala live cooking Dinner Buffet for 2 persons
- Live entertainment show and DJ music.

Indulge and treat yourself to our 5 course set menu on New Year's Eve for only USD 15 per person Supplement

Stay for only USD 157
The above rate is:

- Per person per night
- Inclusive of all taxes & service charge.
- Valid for a minimum stay of 2 nights.
- Includes 2 tickets to the Gala Dinner.
- Meanwhile you can book the 3rd night for only US\$ 63 based on BB per person
- USD 205 per room per night for single accommodation

Al Qasr Hotel & Resort wishes you a very

Happy New Year For 2011
To booking please call 737222 016

Sexual and reproductive health education in Lahj



Volunteers from the Association for Children with Special Needs in Lahj are taught a set of interactive exercises on reproductive health.

Story and Photos By: Tom Finn

It was Sunday morning in Al-Hota, the rundown capital of Lahj governorate in southern Yemen. A group of men and women gathered around a flip chart in an empty wedding hall, examining diagrams of the human reproductive system.

The group watched as Aisha Saeed, a senior protection specialist from Save the Children, talked them through the functions of the reproductive system, before giving them a set of interactive exercises to test their knowledge.

The men, from the Association for Children with Special Needs, and the women, from the Yemeni Women's

Union, were there to receive specialist training on how to teach sexual and reproductive health to the children of Lahj.

This training is part of an EU funded and Save the Children coordinated program aimed at raising awareness amongst 10 to 17 year olds in Lebanon, the Occupied Palestinian Territories and Yemen about sexual and reproductive health.

The three-year campaign, launched on December 1, will be implemented in the governorates of Lahj, Hadramout and Hodeida. It comprises three modules: puberty, sexual abuse, and female genital mutilation (FGM) and early marriage.

While sexual and reproductive health is part of the national curriculum in Yemen, and is taught in biology lessons in secondary schools across the country, many teachers either neglect it or skip it altogether, according to Saeed.

"This was not taught to me at home or in school, so I ended up getting the information from my peers," Hakin Ahmed, a volunteer at the Association for Children with Special Needs, told the Yemen Times. "A lot of what I learnt was nonsense, just gossip."

Another source of information on reproductive health is through forums on the Internet. But YemenNet internet blocks, put in place to prevent people from viewing pornography, also blocks most of these sites.

"Here in Lahj, misconceptions about reproductive health are rampant, especially amongst young girls and women," Fatima Al-Hajji, President of the Yemeni Women's Union in Lahj told the Yemen

Times.

The campaign uses an interactive approach, rather than simply dictating or pointing to diagrams. The organisers intend to engage the children and encourage discussion.

"I want you each to draw a picture of something that should not happen to children. On the next piece of paper I want you to draw another picture showing how we can prevent those things from happening," Saeed said, addressing the trainees in the wedding hall.

Another exercise involves filling in pictures of blank human bodies to show all the changes that occur during puberty.

While Saeed and her team have so far had notable success in engaging with the local community on this project, they are fully aware of the sensitivity of the subject they are teaching. Most of Lahj's population come from highly conservative and isolated rural communities, where a topic like sexual reproduction has the potential to cause controversy.

One source of potential opposition is local religious leaders.

"With one word the Imams can stop our project. So we have to work with them to make sure that they are fully aware of the project and in support of it," said Saeed.

"Our strategy is to always focus on protection. We explain to the Imams that we are giving this information to youngsters, particularly girls, so that they can protect themselves, particularly from abuse."

In other cases it is the parents who are afraid that they are opening their children's eyes to things they shouldn't know.

"We face a difficult balancing act between respecting local culture and losing the essence of what it is that we're trying to teach," said Saeed.

But these difficulties are not insurmountable. Sometimes they can be navigated with a careful and sensible choice of wording.

The Ministry of Health did not want Save the Children using the word 'sexual', so instead they called it 'reproductive health.' Likewise, they were told not to use the word 'ejaculation', so it was replaced by 'functions of the parts of the male reproductive health'.

Save the Children have also formed a supportive committee consisting of officials from the Ministries of Health and Education, Imams and local NGOs to help carry the project forward.

Local head teachers have, according to Saeed, been very forthcoming and enthusiastic about the project. Issues such as puberty, which are closeted and rarely spoken about at home, often end up surfacing in school instead. Saeed remembers one head teacher explaining how girls would have their first period at school and that neither he nor they would know what to do.

Once the training is completed, community leaders will move into ten schools across Lahj to begin teaching sexual and reproductive health.

Yemen was one of the first countries to have joined the Convention on the Rights of the Child in May 1991. The Juvenile Protection Law No. 24 for 1992, and the Child Rights Law No. 45 for 2002 were later added.

These international agreements and national laws affirm that children and adolescents have the right to age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health information, as well as education and services that enable them to deal positively and responsibly with their sexuality.

But, according to Save the Children, these rights are not respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Yemen or Lebanon.

"We are working to help Yemen fulfil its duties towards its children that are clearly set out in its constitution," said Saeed.

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A senior protection specialist from Save the Children explains the functions of the female reproductive system to trainees in Al-Hota, Lahj governorate.

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"Here in Lahj, misconceptions about reproductive health are rampant, especially amongst young girls and women," Fatima Al-Hajji, President of the Yemeni Women's Union in Lahj told the Yemen

Times.

The campaign uses an interactive approach, rather than simply dictating or pointing to diagrams. The organisers intend to engage the children and encourage discussion.

"I want you each to draw a picture of something that should not happen to children. On the next piece of paper I want you to draw another picture showing how we can prevent those things from happening," Saeed said, addressing the trainees in the wedding hall.

Another exercise involves filling in pictures of blank human bodies to show all the changes that occur during puberty.

While Saeed and her team have so far had notable success in engaging with the local community on this project, they are fully aware of the sensitivity of the subject they are teaching. Most of Lahj's population come from highly conservative and isolated rural communities, where a topic like sexual reproduction has the potential to cause controversy.

One source of potential opposition is local religious leaders.

"With one word the Imams can stop our project. So we have to work with them to make sure that they are fully aware of the project and in support of it," said Saeed.

"Our strategy is to always focus on protection. We explain to the Imams that we are giving this information to youngsters, particularly girls, so that they can protect themselves, particularly from abuse."

In other cases it is the parents who are afraid that they are opening their children's eyes to things they shouldn't know.

"We face a difficult balancing act between respecting local culture and losing the essence of what it is that we're trying to teach," said Saeed.

But these difficulties are not insurmountable. Sometimes they can be navigated with a careful and sensible choice of wording.

The Ministry of Health did not want Save the Children using the word 'sexual', so instead they called it 'reproductive health.' Likewise, they were told not to use the word 'ejaculation', so it was replaced by 'functions of the parts of the male reproductive health'.

Save the Children have also formed a supportive committee consisting of officials from the Ministries of Health and Education, Imams and local NGOs to help carry the project forward.

Local head teachers have, according to Saeed, been very forthcoming and enthusiastic about the project. Issues such as puberty, which are closeted and rarely spoken about at home, often end up surfacing in school instead. Saeed remembers one head teacher explaining how girls would have their first period at school and that neither he nor they would know what to do.

Once the training is completed, community leaders will move into ten schools across Lahj to begin teaching sexual and reproductive health.

Yemen was one of the first countries to have joined the Convention on the Rights of the Child in May 1991. The Juvenile Protection Law No. 24 for 1992, and the Child Rights Law No. 45 for 2002 were later added.

These international agreements and national laws affirm that children and adolescents have the right to age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health information, as well as education and services that enable them to deal positively and responsibly with their sexuality.

But, according to Save the Children, these rights are not respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Yemen or Lebanon.

"We are working to help Yemen fulfil its duties towards its children that are clearly set out in its constitution," said Saeed.

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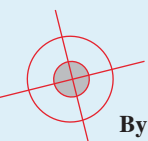
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HEALTH WATCH



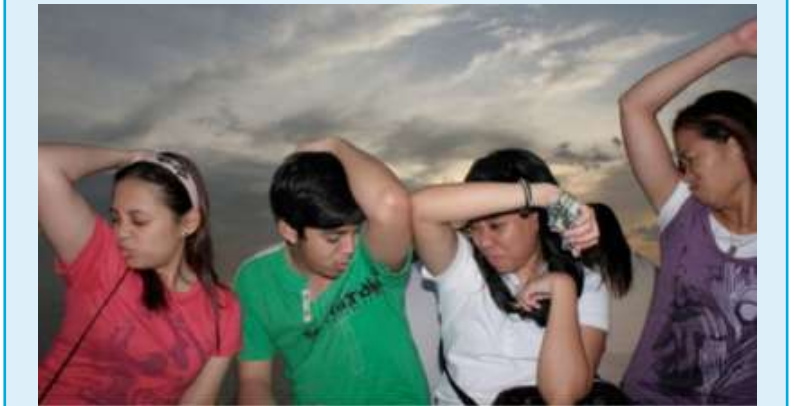
By: Dr. Siva



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

Do you smell?

Aref is very nervous. He is going to attend an interview for promotion, which has many future prospects. A team has come to his office from Sana'a to conduct the interview. He has performed well in previous years as a sales executive and is waiting to get promoted to marketing manager. He is not worried about the interview. But, he is worried about another delicate problem. It is about his body odor. His wife mentioned his body odor as early as the second day of their marriage and he was upset for a long time. Aref also knows that his friends avoid talking to him other than for necessary official matters. He takes a shower every day with antibacterial soap, uses a crystal stone, a stick deodorant, anti-perspirant and powder, but, an hour later he would smell again.



Body odor usually becomes evident if measures are not taken when a person reaches puberty. People who are obese, those who eat spicy foods regularly, as well as individuals with certain medical conditions, such as diabetes, are more susceptible to having body odor.

People who sweat too much (hyperhidrosis) may also be susceptible to body odor. However, often the salt level of their sweat is too high for the bacteria to break down. It depends where the excess sweating occurs and which type of sweat glands are involved.

Body odor is never pleasant, and we've caught a whiff of it in the buses, shared taxis or in busy shopping centers and noticed the distinctive smell of stale sweat. Men sweat more than women, so it's no surprise they are the worst offenders. But, is it a case of poor hygiene or do some people have a medical condition that makes their sweat more than average?

Strange as it may seem, many people with bad body odor are unaware that they smell.

Scientific research has shown that some people cannot detect certain molecules. Their nostrils may be able to register the smell of garlic or curry, but not the smell emanating from their armpits.

What causes body odour?

Everybody sweats. Perspiration is the body's biological way of cooling down. Sweat itself does not smell, but it's ideal for the bacteria that live on our skin. The bacteria breaks down sweat into aromatic fatty acids, which produce the unpleasant odor.

This means body odor can be tackled by:

- Reducing the amount of sweat
- Treating the bacteria that produce the odor.

Medical conditions such as thyroid disease and carcinoid syndrome can cause excessive sweating, as can the side-effects of some medicines, e.g. antidepressants.

How can one reduce body odor?

Wash with soap daily, particularly your armpits, groin and feet where there are many sweat producing glands. Washing removes sweat and reduces the number of bacteria that act upon it. Some people have more sweat and oil producing glands than others. If you sweat a lot you may need to shower two or three times a day.

The use of anti-perspirants and deodorants should be routine. It's worth trying a few because they have different active ingredients and you'll find some work better than others.

Deodorants work by masking the smell of sweat with fragrance, while anti-perspirants reduce the amount of sweat your body produces. Roll-ons tend to be more effective for heavy sweating.

Another useful trick is to shave your armpits. Armpit hair provides a greater surface area for sweat to adhere to and gives the bacteria a fertile breeding ground. It is also essential to wash clothes thoroughly; particularly clothing that comes into contact with sweaty areas such as socks, underwear and shirts.

Never wear the previous day's clothes. However clean your body is, the clothes will retain the smell of previous day's sweat.

You can get an antibacterial and antiseptic solution called Chlorhexidine 0.05% solution from pharmacies. Applied daily, it significantly reduces the number of bacteria, although it has no effect on sweating.

Another remedy you can get without a prescription is 20% aluminium chloride solution, otherwise known as Anhydrol Forte and Driclor. However, some advise against using aluminium derivatives, especially on ladies. The liquid gets into the openings of the sweat glands causing them to swell up and block. Apply it on the armpits, feet etc. before you go to bed each night and wash it off in the morning. Use it every night to start with, and then reduce it as you stop sweating to every other night or once or twice a week.

Treatment of severe sweating

There are a couple of surgical options for severe sweating (hyperhidrosis) which can't be controlled by over-the-counter products. One is to remove a triangular area of skin in the apex of the armpit under local anaesthetic. A small piece measuring 4cm by 1.5cm is cut out, destroying the most troublesome sweat glands. A modern variation on this procedure is liposuction to suck out the sweat glands from the deeper layers of skin. Another type of surgery is to destroy the nerves that control sweating (trans-thoracic sympathectomy).

The success rate is about 40 per cent, but because the body still has to sweat, some people experience increased sweating from their chest, abdomen and back after the operation. It's important to understand this before undergoing surgery, because it cannot be reversed.

Botox

Botulinum toxin is a recent alternative to surgery. Known as Botox, it's more often used as a treatment for facial frown lines. A small amount of the toxin is injected into multiple sites in the skin at the apex of the armpit. Although the results only last a few weeks, it's an effective and safe treatment.

If you're thinking about surgery, you could try Botox to see how effective an operation would be, and whether blocking sweat glands in your armpits causes excessive sweating elsewhere.

Yemen leads in causes of disability

"Care and habilitation are not a charity for disabled persons. They are rights to be demanded," says Raja Al-Masabi, chairwoman of the Arab Human Rights Foundation

By: Ola Al-Shami
For the Yemen Times

In 1992, at the end of the UN Decade of Disabled Persons (1983-1992), the UN General Assembly proclaimed December 3 as the International Day of Disabled Persons. In Yemen, this day is acknowledged on December 9.

The World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed that there are 600 million disabled people around the world, of which 80 percent live in developing countries.

The WHO estimates that the disabled make up around 10 percent of the world's population, and field surveys show that 20 percent of disabled people live under the poverty line in developing countries, which hinders their participation in social activities.

Efforts to habilitate the disabled in Yemen

The Handicapped Rehabilitating Fund provides financial support to habilitate and train disabled people in order to prepare them to participate and interact in social activities. Raja Al-Masabi, Chairwoman of the Arab Human Rights Foundation, said she was "really satisfied with the efforts made by the Handicapped Fund".

"It is the first and most experienced among Arab countries in the field of habilitating and protecting disabled people," she said.

Habilitation provided by the fund supports disabled people financially to join schools, institutes and universities and provides them with the necessary equipment to ease their adaptation within their surrounding environment. "The fund provides the disabled with machines such as mobile chairs and so forth," Al-Masabi pointed out.

Some obstacles

The officers working at the fund, however, need three vital things.

"Despite the fact that the fund is performing well, its staff still need training in three areas. First, they need to be well trained on how to treat disabled people appropriately. Second, they need to be acquainted with what exactly disabled people want. Finally, they need to read and understand the Agreement of Disabled Persons' Rights which Yemen has concurred with," said Al-Masabi.

After the year 2000, people in Yemen started to recognize some of the rights of disabled people.

"Care and habilitation are not a charity for disabled members. These are rights to be demanded," Al-Masabi stressed. She added that the disabled of-

ten reflect this vision when they express their demands not as a matter of help, but as rights.

All ministries that render services ignore the demands of the disabled. "The services are for all people including disabled members. However, every ministry has repudiated the tasks concerning the disabled to the responsibility of the fund. Thus, the huge number of duties including medical assistance, education, and social affairs are difficult to fulfill by the fund's own efforts, which creates more problems," said Al-Masabi.

The fund officials could reduce the financial burdens if the disabled were able to take loans to start small businesses. "The fund would have to perform all the procedures to provide the disabled loans. However, the fund does not allow such loans yet, despite this point being included in the Agreement of Disabled Persons' Rights," said Al-Masabi.

Yemen leads in causes of disability

According to Al-Masabi, Yemen has more causes creating disability than any other country. "We have thousands of causes of disability, such as the purchasing and misuse of firearms, civil wars, difficult deliveries for women - especially in rural areas with a lack of hospitals and education - and a high rate of car accidents due to ignorant drivers."

In 2003, the Arab Human Rights Foundation held a conference concerning disabled persons' rights. "One of the recommendations of that conference was to make special traffic signs for disabled people to enable them to cross

streets safely," said Al-Masabi. "We worked with the Traffic Department, but suddenly they stopped it," she added.

One of the institutions that works for the rights of the disabled is the Arab Human Rights Foundation. "We work with officials after we demonstrate what we want. Fortunately, it is easy for us to meet any minister or official. We have great laws and decisions, but the problem is in implementing these laws," Al-Masabi pointed out.

International Day of Disabled People

While many institutions and social foundations celebrate this day in Yemen and around the world, Al-Masabi refuses to celebrate this anniversary: "We do not want December 3 or 9 either. We do not need a national day for people to remember us for one day and forget us the rest of the year," she stated. "Money that is paid on this day for such celebrations are supposed to be provided to the disabled to help them in fulfilling their current needs."

About AHRF

The Handicapped Rehabilitation Fund was established in 2002. It is tasked with the care and rehabilitation of disabled person's affairs. The tasks include medical assistance, cash and financial support, and funding programs that are concerned with disabled persons' rights and activities.

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Day	Arr.	Dep.	Route	Model	Flight
Saturday	2150	0001	Sana'a/Rome / Frankfurt- Rome - Sanaa	A 310	YF 740-1
	0005		Jakarta- Kuala Lumpur- Dubai- Sanaa	A 330	YF 865
	0445	0015	Sana'a- Addis Ababa- Sanaa	B 738	YF 664.5
	1330	0100	Sana'a- Djibouti- Moroni- Djibouti- Sanaa	A 310	YF 626.7
	0640	0240	Sana'a- Jeddah - Sanaa	B 738	YF 514.5
	1600	0700	Sana'a- Sayoun- Abu Dhabi- Sayoun - Sanaa	B 738	YF 816.7
	1730	0930	Sana'a-Taiz- Riyadh- Aden- Sanaa	B 738	YF 534.5
	1650	1025	Sana'a-Mukalla- Jeddah- Sanaa	B 738	YF 510.1
	1845	1045	Sana'a- Cairo- Sanaa	A 310	YF 602.3
		1800	Sana'a- Dubai- Kuala Lumpur- Jakarta	A 330	YF 862
	0645	1935	Sana'a- Aden- Mumbey- Sanaa	B 738	YF 854.5
	0300	2300	Sana'a- Jeddah- Sanaa	B 738	YF 518.9
0830	2300	Sana'a- Dar Al Salam - Nairobi- Sanaa	B 738	YF 670	
Sunday	0445	0015	Sana'a- Addis Ababa- Sanaa	B 738	YF 622.3
	0350	0030	Sana'a- Asmara- Sanaa	A 310	YF 630.1
	0645	0240	Sana'a- Jeddah- Sanaa	B 738	YF 514.5
	1750	0800	Sana'a- Aden- Dubai- Aden- Sanaa	B 738	YF 852.3
	2130	0900	Sana'a- Djibouti- Moroni- Djibouti- Sanaa	A 310	YF 628.9
	1945	0930	Sana'a- Taiz- Cairo- Hodeidah- Sanaa	B 738	YF 602.3
	1540	1000	Sana'a- Jeddah- Taiz- Sanaa	B 738	YF 502.3
	2120		Kuala Lumpur- Jakarta- Dubai- Sanaa	A 330	YF 863
	2359	1430	Sana'a- Beirut - Amman - Sanaa	A 310	YF 643
	0645	1935	Sana'a-Aden- Mumbey- Sanaa	B 738	YF 854.5
	0230	2230	Sana'a- Jeddah- Sanaa	B 738	YF 508.9
	0645	2300	Sana'a- Damascus- Sanaa	A 310	YF 650.1
Monday	1955	0001	Sana'a- Cairo- Paris- Cairo- Sanaa	B 738	YF 748.9
	0630	0130	Sana'a- Khartoum - Sanaa	B 738	YF 632.3
	0700	0300	Sana'a- Jeddah- Sanaa	B 738	YF 514.5
	0915	0800	Sana'a- Dubai- Guangzhou- Dubai - Sanaa	A 330	YF 888.9
	1930	1000	Sana'a- Dar Al Salam - Nairobi- Sanaa	B 738	YF 670
	2000	1020	Sana'a- Aden- Abu Dhabi- Aden- Sanaa	A 310	YF 812.3
	2340	1100	Sana'a-Mukalla- Cairo- Mukalla- Sanaa	B 738	YF 602.3
	1500	1100	Sana'a- Jeddah- Sanaa	B 738	YF 506.7
	2200	1730	Sana'a- Addis Ababa- Sanaa	B 738	YF 624.5
	2150	1830	Sana'a- Asmara- Sanaa	B 738	YF 630.1
	0645	2100	Sana'a- Mumbey- Sanaa	B 738	YF 854.5
	2110		Sana'a- Dubai- Jakarta	A 330	YF 864
0230	2230	Sana'a- Jeddah- Sanaa	A 310	YF 520.1	
Tuesday	1955	0001	Sana'a- Rome / Frankfurt- Rome - Sanaa	A 310	YF 740.1
	1300	0100	Sana'a- Djibouti- Moroni- Djibouti- Sanaa	A 310	YF 626.7
	0645	0240	Sana'a- Jeddah - Sanaa	B 738	YF 514.5
	1900	0800	Sana'a-Hodeidah / Cairo- Aden - Sanaa	B 738	YF 602.3
	1930	1000	Sana'a- Amman- Beirut - Sanaa	A 310	YF 642
	1635	0720	Sana'a- Mukalla- Abu Dhabi- Mukalla- Sanaa	B 738	YF 802.3
	1845	1100	Sana'a- Damascus- Sanaa	B 738	YF 644.5
	1755	1115	Sana'a-Aden- Riyadh- Sanaa	B 738	YF 532.3
	1900	1500	Sana'a- Jeddah- Sanaa	A 310	YF 506.7
	2255		Jakarta- Dubai- Sanaa	A 330	YF 865
	0600	2030	Sana'a- Nairobi- Dar Al Salam - Sanaa	B 738	YF 671
	0245	2045	Sana'a-Aden- Jeddah- Sanaa	B 738	YF 518.9
0810	2100	Sana'a- Mumbey- Aden- Sanaa	B 738	YF 854.5	
0250	2330	Sana'a- Asmara- Sanaa	A 310	YF 630.1	
0415	2345	Sana'a- Addis Ababa- Sanaa	A 310	YF 622.3	
Wednesday	0530	0030	Sana'a-Khartoum- Sanaa	B 738	YF 632.3
	0920	0245	Sana'a- Jeddah - Sanaa	B 738	YF 514.5
	0915	0800	Sana'a- Dubai- Guangzhou- Dubai - Sanaa	A 330	YF 888.9
	1630	1020	Sana'a- Riyadh- Taiz- Sanaa	B 738	YF 532.3
	1815	1030	Sana'a- Damascus- Sanaa	A 310	YF 644.5
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	1835	1100	Sana'a-Taiz- Jeddah- Aden- Sanaa	B 738	YF 512.3
	2210	1405	Sana'a- Doha - Kuwait - Sanaa	B 738	YF 824
	2310	1430	Sana'a- Bahrain- Dubai- Sanaa	B 738	YF 868
	2005		Sana'a- Dubai- Jakarta - Kuala Lumpur	A 330	YF 862
	0100	2100	Sana'a- Jeddah- Sanaa	B 738	YF 520.1
	Thursday	0600	0130	Sana'a- Addis Ababa- Sanaa	A 310
1700		0600	Sana'a-Aden- Cairo - Taiz- Sanaa	B 738	YF 602.3
1545		0700	Sana'a- Sayoun- Jeddah- Sayoun- Sanaa	B 738	YF 500.1
2230		1030	Sana'a- Djibouti- Moroni- Djibouti- Sanaa	A 310	YF 628.9
2000		1010	Sana'a- Aden- Dubai- Aden- Sanaa	B 738	YF 812.3
1940		1030	Sana'a- Mukalla- Abu Dhabi - Mukalla- Sanaa	A 310	YF 814.5
2340			Jakarta- Kuala Lumpur- Dubai- Sanaa	A 330	YF 863
1830		1430	Sana'a- Jeddah- Sanaa	B 738	YF 506.7
0645		2100	Sana'a- Mumbey- Sanaa	B 738	YF 854.5
2359		2130	Sana'a- Dubai- Jakarta - Kuala Lumpur	A 330	YF 864
0200		2240	Sana'a- Asmara- Sanaa	B 738	YF 518.9
0200		2240	Sana'a- Asmara- Sanaa	B 738	YF 634.5
Friday	1955	0001	Sana'a- Cairo- Paris- Cairo- Sanaa	B 738	YF 748.9
	0700	0100	Sana'a- Jeddah- Aden - Sanaa	A 310	YF 514.5
	0600	0100	Sana'a- Khartoum- Sanaa	B 738	YF 632.3
	0600	0130	Sana'a- Addis Ababa- Sanaa	A 310	YF 622.3
	1700	0730	Sana'a- Beirut - Amman - Sanaa	A 310	YF 643
	1705	0845	Sana'a- Dubai - Bahrain - Sanaa	B 738	YF 821
	1310	0830	Sana'a- Riyadh- Sanaa	B 738	YF 532.3
	1745	0935	Sana'a- Kuwait- Doha - Sanaa	B 738	YF 825
	2030	1045	Sana'a- Cairo- Aden- Sanaa	A 310	YF 602.3
	1700	1300	Sana'a- Jeddah- Sanaa	B 738	YF 506.7
		1900	Sana'a-Mukalla	B 738	YF 507
	2205	1845	Sana'a- Asmara- Sanaa	A 310	YF 630.1
0230	2030	Sana'a - Aden - Jeddah - Sanaa	B 738	YF 520.1	
2145		Mukalla- Sanaa	B 738	YF 407	
0845	2300	Sana'a - Mumbey - Sanaa	B 738	YF 856.7	

IMPORTANT Numbers

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 Ministry of Awqaf and Guidance 01-274439
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Workshop for imams about gender and economic empowerment

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

A three-day workshop for imams about gender and economic empowerment for women and youth concluded this week

in Saiyun, Hadramout governorate. The workshop aims to reinforce the imams' professional abilities to transmit gender messages to Yemenis, especially youth and women.

The workshop was organized by the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Gender and Economic Empowerment Project (GEE) in collaboration with the Ministry of En-

dowment and Guidance in Hadramout.

"We deliberately targeted imams to convey gender concepts to society in Hadramout. They have considerable influence over people in this conservative governorate, and play a major role in making positive change in the public," Aleen Hamza, a project officer at UNDP in Yemen told the Yemen Times.

The imams can also make a great difference in local communities by creating public awareness about gender concepts, and encouraging citizen participation in economic development, according to Hamza.

The training targeted 20 influential imams in Hadramout, according to Hamza. "Men have more opportunities than women in Hadramout and unemployment among youth is rampant," she said.

The imams prepared plans to educate people about women and youth empowerment. They were very enthusiastic about the idea and decided to implement it, according to Hamza.

Before the project there were many misunderstood ideas about gender among the imams. "The imams absorbed a lot about the concept of gender in the workshop. They asked us to run more such workshops in the future," she said.

"UNDP setup this project in Hadramout, and if we see indicators of success in this project we will hold similar workshops

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in other governorates immediately," she said.

According to Hamza, the project start-

ed in Hadramout due to its deep poverty and the weak role women and youth play in the governorate. UNDP's project supports better livelihoods, gender policy and economic and social empowerment of youth and women.

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



Twenty influential Imams from Hadramout were trained about gender and economic empowerment for youth and women for three days.

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