



## Yemen, WB sign \$ 90 mln grant to protect poorest

20/December/2014 Yemen and the World Bank (WB) have signed at the WB Group headquarters in Washington a draft urgent grant worth \$ 90 million for Yemen.

The grant amount, which is provided by the Bank through the International Development Association (IDA), will be allocated to support the government program project aiming to protect the most vulnerable groups (the poorest) of the Yemeni people.

The project also includes an additional contribution from the U.S. government worth \$ 28.27 million to support the process of cash transfers provided to over one million Yemeni families in the framework of the main social security network in Yemen represented by the Social Welfare Fund, bringing the total grants provided under the project to \$ 118.47 million ( about 25.45 billion Yemeni riyals).

The grant was signed by Chargé d'affaires of Yemeni Embassy in Washington Adel al-Sonaini and Acting Vice President of the WB Gerard Byam.

Al-Sonaini pointed out that the signing of this grant comes under the obligations of the Yemen government in its general program, which recently won the confidence of the Parliament, with regard to the increasing the benefiting cases from the social security by 50% in the budget of 2015.



## Commemorating the World Aids Day

01 December 2014 The world Aids Day was commemorated at the UN Development Program in Sanaa through holding a media session for Yemeni journalists on the occasion. The event was observed under the theme of (the gap does not leave any one behind in the back .. treatment forever and Protection for ever).

Dr. Fawzia Gharamh , the coordinator of UNAIDS gave a lecture on the importance of commemorating this occasion where she pointed out that 35 million people worldwide have lived with HIV,during the year of 2013 indicating that , 230,000 people living with the virus in the Middle East and North Africa region , where the number of new HIV infections are estimated to reach 25,000 cases while 2,300 new infections cases were recorded among children. Ms. Gharamah made it clear that 15,000 people died in 2013 due to causes related to the disease. - Before the closing, a Q and A session was opened to give the journalists the chance to ask questions about the epidemic and the role of Yemeni government to provide the treatment and fighting the disease among the Yemeni society. The seminar was attended by number of Yemeni journalists and UN officials from the UN communication Group.



## UNICEF distributes nearly 3000 school bags

31/December/2014

The UNICEF has supported the distribution of school bags for 2737 students among Rad'a district's schools. During the inauguration, Secretary General of the local council of Rad'a district Ahmed al-Akam hailed the UNICEF's educational support and services in Yemen, stressing the importance to include the needy students in such programs.

## IOM Yemen marks International Migrants Day

18 December 2014

**Yemen-** In recognition of International Migrants Day on 18 December, the IOM Mission in Yemen organized nation-wide activities in Sana'a, Aden and Haradh from 18-22 December to help raise awareness, save lives and promote the human dignity and well-being of migrants and other vulnerable communities.

In Yemen's capital city of Sana'a, IOM hosted an event and delivered presentations and awareness sessions to key representatives from the Government of Yemen including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Human Rights and the Authority of Immigration, Passport and Nationality Authority, as well as members from the international community and civil society organizations.

In her opening remarks and keynote presentation, IOM Chief of Mission in Yemen, Nicoletta Giordano underscored that *“the number of migrant deaths in the Mediterranean, the Gulf of Aden and elsewhere in 2014 reinforces the need for enhanced dialogue and coordination among governments in countries of origin, transit and destination in order to save lives and systematically prosecute criminal organizations engaged in the trafficking and smuggling of these vulnerable individuals”*.

Following her opening remarks, Ms. Giordano facilitated an open discussion with participants on current migration trends to Yemen and presented on key findings from IOM's publication *“Fatal Journeys”*.

Also in Sana'a, IOM field teams organized an event for 205 migrants comprised of men, women and children from Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Eritrea and Egypt. The day was colorfully marked by migrants who expressed themselves through plays, poems, jokes, art exhibitions and speeches.





## Yemen, UNICEF sign 2015 action plan

11/December/2014

Yemen and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) signed on Thursday a joint action plan for 2015.



The plan includes the pledges of the government and its development partners to make developmental programs at the central and governorate levels.

Following the signing, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Mohamed al-Maitami hailed the level of cooperation between Yemen and UNICEF, valuing highly the aid provides by UNICEF to Yemen in all maternal and childhood fields.

Evaluation and Planning Director at the UNICEF affirmed the UN organization will continue to provide all available assistances to Yemen.

## IFAD holds workshop on Yemen's projects executive mechanism

09 December 2014



The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has held in Amman, Jordan, a four-day workshop on the implementation of Yemen's project portfolio.

The workshop, which started on Monday, also intends to review the general conditions and adopted procedures for all IFAD projects and financing agreements.

Representatives of at least 30 relevant bodies take part in the workshop, including

Economic Opportunities Fund (EOF), and Ministries of Planning and International Cooperation, Finance, Agriculture and Fisheries.

At the opening session of the workshop, Yemen's project portfolio Director Mohammed Abdul-Qader talked about the importance of applying the IFAD-adopted procedures and regulations of the financing agreement and the general conditions to implement projects, stressing that IFAD's all projects aim to eradicate poverty in rural areas.

The workshop will review many papers on the systems and bylaws of IFAD action policy, and administrative and financial procedures of the financing agreement as well as reviewing lessons learned from the IFAD successful projects in Dalea and Dhamar provinces, he said,



## UNDP and MoLA Inaugurate Strategy for Supporting CSOs' Role in Transitional Justice

16 Dec 2014



PARTICIPANTS DURING THE CONFERENCE

The Ministry of Legal Affairs (MoLA), in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR,) launched its “Strategy for Engaging Civil Society in Transitional Justice Efforts in Yemen.” The strategy was introduced during three conferences attended by more than 280 civil society organizations (CSOs) in Aden, Taiz and Sana’a. The three two-day conferences took place between November 12 to December 9 and included participants from 20 Governorates.

The strategy aims at building the capacity of CSOs to enable them to take effective role in transitional justice processes; mobilize peoples’ support for transitional justice through community dialogues amongst stakeholders and local divided societies; and build CSOs coalitions and networks to promote and raise awareness about transitional justice and its outcomes.

In his opening remarks at Sana’a conference entitled “Strengthening CSOs’ Role in Supporting Transitional Justice and Reconciliation in Yemen,” the Minister of Legal Affairs, Dr. Mohamed Al-Makhlafi, explained that transitional justice draft law and national reconciliation in Yemen aims at achieving peace through transitional justice leading to fair and lasting reconciling based on justice and forgiveness. Dr. Al-Makhlafi added that there is a strong will in the Government of Yemen and the society to achieve transitional justice despite counter efforts by some parties. He underlined the

importance of partnerships with CSOs to better communicate notions of transitional justice to people; and called on those organizations to become “messengers of peace” in spreading awareness on transitional justice and its process. On her part, the UNDP Country Director, Ms. Mikiko Tanaka, affirmed that the international community is committed to supporting transitional justice in Yemen and pointed out that it is important at this stage to recognize the suffering of victims and to facilitate institutional support that can lead to a lasting peace and guarantees of not re-occurring of violations. Ms. Tanaka underscored the role of CSOs in partnering with the Government of Yemen to raise public awareness and advocacy to achieve successful transitional justice.

In addition to introducing the strategy for engaging CSOs in transitional justice, the conference aimed at identifying active and transitional justice-relevant CSOs that will partner with MoLA, UNDP and OHCHR to implement the strategy’s activities in the field. Participants also underwent self-assessment to identify their needs to become effective contributors to Transitional Justice processes. Finally, participants at all conferences stressed the importance of implementing transitional justice processes according to the outcomes of the National Dialogue Conference and peace and partnership agreement to help effected communities to come to terms with their past and address human



## Yemen, WB review progress of donors' pledges Bureau

08/December/2014



Yemen and the World Bank reviewed here on Monday the progress made in the support project for the Executive Bureau to accelerate absorption of donors' pledges.

Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Mohamed al-Maitami and WB Country Director in Yemen Wael Zakout also discussed the implementation progress of the Mutual Accountability Framework (MAF) signed between the government and donors in Riyadh donors' conference held on 4 September 2012.

Al-Maitami praised the WB's keenness to support the government's efforts aiming at promoting paths of developments and stability in Yemen.

For his part, Zakout affirmed the WB's adherence to continue to provide all aspects of assistance to enhance the development in Yemen.

## UNDP organizes course on ISCD project

22/December/2014



The Integrated Social Cohesion and Development (ISCD) project of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has organized a training course for the local authorities' members on social cohesion and development field.

During ten days, the course aims to get the 62 trainees acquainted with skills and information on social cohesion and development as well as to activate the role of the community in order to resolve conflicts and promote the process of development.

It is worth mentioning that the project would include other governments.



## Japan donates to Yemen's fight against hunger



*Photo from archive for the WFP representative, Minister of International Planning and the Japanese Ambassador to Yemen*

The UN World Food Programme (WFP) Yesterday [announced](#) a key donation from Japan to fight hunger in Yemen. A total of US \$ 5.6 million has been received to provide wheat flour and pulses to hungry Yemenis, some of whom have been displaced by internal conflict.

WFP Yemen Representative and Country Director Bishow Parajuli says, “This donation brings Japan’s contributions to our current emergency operation to nearly US\$30 million, making Japan our second largest donor. We are extremely grateful for Japan’s considerable and consistent support, which has proven crucial in assisting the most vulnerable.”

The UN food agency relies entirely on voluntary donations. It’s mission in Yemen feeds those impacted by high food prices, conflict and displacement, as well as providing nutrition to infants and school children.

Japan’s Ambassador to Yemen, Katsuyoshi Hayashi, said today, “The government of Japan is eager to contribute to alleviating the suffering caused by food shortages across Yemen, which is going through a very critical juncture on the humanitarian and

political fronts. We hope this new food assistance will contribute to the effort which has been made by Yemeni people to stabilize the country through the political transitional period.”

WFP says it’s a crucial time for Yemen because there is a golden opportunity to create programs aimed at self-sufficiency for the country, rather than emergency aid. Food for all Yemenis is the crucial foundation for rebuilding the country from the violence and political unrest. New programs are even being introduced, such as school meals.

Parajuli adds, “This new operation reflects a gradual shift from providing relief to building recovery and resilience, helping people overcome barriers to food and nutrition security and manage the consequences of conflict and natural stresses. However, its success will depend on the continued generosity of major donors such as Japan.”

The United States is the largest donor to Yemen. It’s future donations to WFP will be decided, in part, in the upcoming Farm Bill legislation which allocates funding to the U.S. Food for Peace program



**Message of Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin**

**Executive Director of UNFPA**

**United Nations Population Fund**

**On the Occasion of the International Human Rights Day**

**10 December 2014**

## **HUMAN RIGHTS 365 DAYS**

Today on International Human Rights Day, I applaud human rights defenders across the globe and everyone who participated in the 16 days of activism to end violence against women. Together, we must stand up for human rights and human dignity for every one every day. This is a global goal worthy in itself and critical for the advance of peace, justice and sustainable development.

Since the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 66 years ago, many gains have been won, but the foundational aspiration of “equality in dignity and rights” remains a distant reality for so many people. This year’s theme, Human Rights 365 Days, reminds us all – governments, corporations and civil society – that we must uphold all human rights for all people on all days.

Today, I pledge that UNFPA will continue to uphold human rights for all, especially the rights that underpin sexual and reproductive health and well-being. These rights were proclaimed as global priorities at the International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo 20 years ago and reinforced the next year in Beijing at the Fourth World Conference on Women.

Twenty years later, far fewer women die in pregnancy and childbirth. Far more women and couples are using voluntary family planning. Far more women are enjoying their rights to education, employment and political participation. More children, especially more girls, are going to school.

And nearly 1 billion people have been lifted out of extreme poverty.

However, 20 years later, millions of women, men, girls and boys still suffer the indignities of discrimination, violence and injustice even in the most intimate spheres of their lives, in violation of their sexuality, reproduction and bodily integrity. Together, we must end such human rights violations as sexual and gender-based violence and discrimination, forced sterilization, forced impregnation and child marriage.



UNFPA supports governments and civil society organizations to address these abuses and promote and protect sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as well as gender equality, including at the United Nations Human Rights Council. A [UNFPA report](#) published this year shows that more than 27 per cent of all recommendations from the Human Rights Council’s Universal Periodic Review, from 2008 to 2011, concern sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights.

The Human Rights Council review has invigorated national policy dialogue and action, providing an opportunity for women, adolescents, youth and marginalized populations to make their voices heard on issues central to their human dignity and well-being.

Today and 365 days of the year, UNFPA will promote the human rights of people in all of their diversity, in all spheres of life, particularly their right to sexual and reproductive health, free from discrimination, coercion and violence.



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

## Message on Human Rights Day

10 December 2014

On Human Rights Day we speak out.

We denounce authorities who deny the rights of any person or group.

We declare that human rights are for all of us, all the time: whoever we are and wherever we are from; no matter our class, our opinions, our sexual orientation.

This is a matter of individual justice, social stability and global progress.

The United Nations protects human rights because that is our proud mission – and because when people enjoy their rights, economies flourish and countries are at peace.

Violations of human rights are more than personal tragedies. They are alarm bells that may warn of a much bigger crisis.

The UN's Human Rights Up Front initiative aims to heed those alarms. We are rallying in response to violations – before they degenerate into mass atrocities or war crimes.

Everyone can advance the struggle against injustice, intolerance and extremism.

I call on States to honour their obligation to protect human rights every day of the year. I call on people to hold their governments to account. And I call for special protections for the human rights defenders who courageously serve our collective cause.

Let us respond to the cries of the exploited, and uphold the right to human dignity for all.

**Team of UNIC Sana'a wish you  
a happy and prosperous New Year of 2015**



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