



# UN INFORMATION CENTRE

Sana'a, YEMEN

Issue #70 Feb. 2014

## UN in Sana'a launches "Let the World Knows What You Want"

On Wednesday February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014, the United Nations Office in Yemen launched the second phase of the global survey "let the world know what you want" in order to find out the requirements of the people in their depiction of a better world. At the ceremony, three award winning films were presented at the United Nations in Yemen with the focus being on human rights. The three films were presented on the grounds for harassment, forced disappearances, torture, and "Wounded identity." During this event, the declaration of the short documentary film winners whom were competing for the best film submissions showing and speaking about the human rights issue in Yemen were announced.

A number of officials from the diplomatic corps in Sana'a and representatives of international organizations attended the occasion. Organizations and associations which have participated in the first campaign were honored with the distribution of

questionnaires about the most important needs from the perspective of a Yemeni citizen. The results of the survey pointed out the urgent need for a quality education and to improve the living conditions in fighting against poverty and unemployment .



During the ceremony they showed three films by the winning contestants' in their illustration of human rights and honoring the partners in the campaign of "global" in Yemen including volunteers of youth. The Minister of Human Rights, Hooria Mashhour, confirmed the importance of launching a campaign of the second United Nations: "let the world know what you want", to determine the priorities of the citizens in the next stage.

[Continued on page 2](#)

## FAO grants Yemen \$0.5 m to combat desert locusts

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) gave on Tuesday Yemen a grant of \$500,000 to support the country's efforts to combat desert locusts.

The grant aims to enhance the capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation to fight desert locusts, particularly in Tehama area. The grant's agreement was signed by Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation Fareed Mojawar and FAO representative in Yemen Salah Hasan.

Later, Mojawar and Hasan reviewed the joint cooperation between Yemen and the organization in areas of food security and combating plant pests.

FAO's representative in Yemen expressed the Organization's readiness to provide all support for Yemen in boosting up the agricultural development and achieving food security, as well as assisting the Ministry in carrying out its programs and plans in accordance with the food security national strategy for 2012-2016.





## WFP supports Yemen with US\$ 491 mln

Planning and International Cooperation

Minister Mohammed al-Saadi said on Tuesday that the UN World Food Program (WFP) has approved a two-year, US\$ 491 million support to Yemen, the state-run Saba reported.

This operation aims at supporting a gradual shift from relief food assistance to promoting recovery and building resilience and livelihoods among vulnerable and food-insecure people in Yemen.

In a meeting with WFP Yemen Representative and Country Director Bishow Parajuli, al-Saadi expressed

the Yemeni government's appreciation for the support that more than 6 million Yemenis will benefit from in the areas of education, health, social affairs, labor and agriculture.

He also said that WFP has been a solid and dependable partner to the Yemeni government, welcoming this new operation, which can help improve the lives of millions of Yemenis.



## Governor of Abyan meets with UNHCR Representative

Governor of Abyan Jamal al-Aqel met here on Wednesday with Resident Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Yemen.

The governor praised efforts exerted by UNHCR in Abyan, pointing out that it performed development projects and helped in returning refugees to their homes.

He affirmed that Abyan needs further development projects in the wake of conflicts carried out by al-Qaeda in some areas of Abyan.

The UNHCR representative appreciated efforts exerted by the local authorities of Abyan in helping refugees return their homes, stressing that UNHCR will continue its support to refugees of Abyan.



[Continued from page 1](#)

## UN in Sana'a launches "Let the....."

In the launch ceremony, the Minister Hooria Mashhour stressed that the world began to recognize Yemen by the young people, especially since the revolution that took place in the beginning of February 2011, which was based on the demands of radical change and claim rights. She added that the Yemeni people are talented and have many ideas; they can carry out good work and projects, not terrorism.

The Resident Coordinator of the United Nations in Yemen, Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, stated that 121 thousand Yemenis participated in the campaign "Let the world know what you want," the majority of the participants in the campaign voted to demand quality education, which came primarily from that slide.

Undersecretary of the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, Mohammad Alhaweri, confirmed the importance which was gained by this campaign in the re-drafting of the millennium goals that represented the priorities of the Yemeni citizen and express his true needs, especially in light of the changes that pave the way for a new Yemen. He added that Yemen has witnessed unprecedented shifts since the February Revolution to demand justice and equality, adding that the Yemenis have chosen an excellent example of the difference, agreement and dialogue success.

Alvhild Stromme, Communications Specialist in the UN Resident Coordinator's Office, said that the next meeting aims for several demands, the most important is to achieve the universal primary education, gender equality, improve the standard of health, the fight against AIDS and sustainable development.



## Yemen , UNHCR discuss means to provide refugees' needs

Yemen and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) discussed here on Thursday a mechanism to provide the needs of Somali and other African refugees in the Kharaz camp in Lahj governorate. During their meeting, Lahj Governor Ahmad al-Majidi and UNHCR representative in Yemen Johannes Van Der Klaauw reviewed the level of services provided by the UNHCR for the refugees and the local community in Lahj in fields of health, education, electricity, water and sanitation. They also discussed the ways to strengthen the security protection of the UNHCR office's team working in the camp, in addition to providing the necessary requirements to improve the living conditions of refugees in the camp and citizens of neighboring areas.

The Governor praised the efforts of the UNHCR's Representative and his field visit to inspect the services that will be offered to the refugees and the local community as well, stressing the local authority's commitment to facilitate all the UNHCR tasks to help the refugees.

Al-Majidi indicated to the importance of accelerating the implementation of the camp's drainage project, whose study and designs have been completed with an estimate cost of \$1 million.

For his part, Klaauw underlined the UNHCR's keenness to provide all the needs of the camp, and coordinate mechanisms with refugee-concerned donor organizations to meet the needs.

## WFP begins distributions of take-home rations to 100,000 girls in Yemen

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has begun distributions of take-home food rations to 100,000 girls attending school in 10 Yemeni governorates to encourage them to continue their education, avoid early marriage and provide a better life for them and their future children.

The US\$17 million operation will provide each girl with a take-home ration of 50 kg of wheat and three litres of fortified vegetable oil provided three times during the current school year. Taking into account their family members, some 700,000 people will benefit from the project.

“In a country where more than half the adult female population is illiterate – as opposed to just 18 percent of men -- women are at a huge disadvantage, so ensuring education for girls is vital,” said WFP Yemen Country Director Bishow Parajuli. “This operation also supports plans by the Yemen Government to institutionalize gender equality under the new federal constitution.”

## MLA Helping Yemeni Government in Conflict Afflicted Areas

The military conflict in Sa'ada that began in 2004 and continued to 2010 adversely affected the livelihoods of most of the Yemeni people. The limited resources that were intended for poverty reduction efforts were diverted to support military operations in Sa'ada and that resulted in the deterioration of the social indicators. The number of people living under the national poverty line increased from 34.2% in 2006 according to the Household Budget and almost 54% in 2012 according to the Joint Socioeconomic Assessment.

The poverty situation in Yemen exacerbated when the Youth Peaceful Revolution started in 2011, where military operations shifted to the capital city Sana'a and extended to central regions, Taiz and Ibb, and the southern region of Aden, Abyan and Lahj. As a result of instability in many parts of Yemen, the number of internal displaced persons increased to over a half million during 2011 and 2012 and many of the community livelihoods opportunities were either fully or partially damaged. To provide a comprehensive understanding of livelihood opportunities and gaps in vulnerable governorates in Yemen, the United Nation Development Program (UNDP) launched the findings of a comprehensive Multidimensional Livelihoods Assessment (MLA) in Conflict Affected Areas of Abyan, Amran, Hajja and Taiz governorates.

Mr. Ismail Ould cheikh Ahmed, UNDP Resident Representative, mentioned that Yemen is the first country worldwide to have undertaken this innovative approach to livelihoods research. Mr. Ahmed said that the findings provide analysis on the link between poverty, unemployment and conflict, “this assessment is now a global model, and more importantly it provides the necessary information to break the negative cycle and support youth and women to identify and initiate viable livelihoods that will sustain them and their families in dignity,” Ahmed added.





## Yemen partakes in IFAD Governing Council meetings in Rome

Yemen is taking part in the 37th session of the Governing Council of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) kicked off on Wednesday in the Italian capital Rome.

In his speech at the session's meeting, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation Farid Mojawar underlined the escalation of the repercussions of the economic and food crisis on the developing countries' economies, including Yemen, stressing that encountering the challenges of food security and poverty alleviation should remain on the top of the world's priorities.

The Minister talked about the role of family farming in facing such challenges, as it is the dominant agricultural form in Yemen. He also reviewed the existing cooperation with IFAD and its contribution to the rural development project at a total cost of \$127 million, covering five major provinces, which was ratified by the Yemeni cabinet recently.

## Yemen, FAO discuss establishing food security fund

Yemen and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) discussed here on Saturday establishing a special fund in cooperation with the GCC countries to achieve food security and fight poverty and malnutrition in Yemen.

During their meeting in the Italian capital Rome, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Mohammad al-Sa'adi and FAO Director General Jose Graziano da Silva also reviewed the possible means to enhance the joint cooperation between Yemen and FAO in the agricultural and development fields.

The Minister briefed da Silva on the efforts Yemen has made so far, including the establishment of Supreme National Committee for Food Security, stressing the importance of providing the Committee with all support to do its mission of making policies to achieve food security in Yemen.

He also indicated to the efforts Yemen has made recently to combat desert locusts and other pests, underlining the importance that FAO funds national strategic projects for agricultural development in Yemen, as well as increasing its aid for other projects implemented by FAO.

Da Silva expressed the Organization's constant readiness to provide technical and consultative assistances to Yemen in the fields of agriculture and development.

He said that the appointment of the FAO's new representative in Yemen confirmed the Organization's interest in promoting the cooperation relations with Yemen.



## WFP allocates US\$ 491 mln for food aid to six million Yemenis

World Food Programme (WFP) has discussed on Tuesday details of the implementation of the WFP coming two-year program aiming to provide food aid to six million Yemenis suffering from food insecurity at the cost of US\$ 491 million.

This came in the first session of the WFP Executive Board being held in the Italian capital Rome and with the participation Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Mohammed al-Sa'adi.

The WFP will offer the support via increasing food and promote the government's plans to encourage the girls' enrollment in schools.

Talking to Saba, al-Sa'adi pointed out that the WFP approved program for the coming two years would be in active from the coming July, noting that Yemeni would benefit from the program in many fields, such as; education, health, social affairs and labor, agriculture and beside other fields of development.

The school feeding program aims to support the enrollment of nearly 215,000 girls in basic education. Within the WFP's activities, relief aid for about 600,000 of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees as well would also provide.





## Yemen, humanitarian partners launch 2014 Yemen humanitarian response plan

The Government of Yemen and its humanitarian partners launched on Monday the 2014 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (YHRP), with a strong appeal for support to meet the critical needs of millions of vulnerable people in the country.

“The scale of current needs makes Yemen one of the largest humanitarian emergencies globally,” the **UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator**, Mr Ismail Ould Cheick Ahmed, said at the launch. “In 2014, more than half of Yemen’s population will need some form of humanitarian assistance. The recent conflict in Sa’ada and Amran has increased the vulnerability of thousands more people, and limited humanitarian access.”

Some 14.7 million people will need humanitarian assistance in 2014. This includes 10.5 million people who are food insecure, more than a million children under-5 who are acutely malnourished, 13.1 million people who have no access to safe water and adequate sanitation, 8.6 million people without access to health services, more than 300,000 people who are still displaced in the north and more than 264,000 refugees.

The 2014 humanitarian response plan is forward looking and focuses on the early recovery, durable solutions and resilience, with the aim to lift people out of vulnerability. It aims to meet the needs of 7.6 million people out of 14.7 million who need humanitarian assistance in Yemen this year. The plan requires US\$592 million to implement.

In 2013, only 53 per cent of the humanitarian requirements were met. Clusters like protection, education and early recovery, in particular, were under-funded. There was, however, a welcome increase in the involvement of Gulf organisations and national partners from Yemen, in the response.

This year, humanitarian activities have been prioritised based on overall needs assessments that involved partners in the southern, central and northern regions. The assessments found that women, girls and boys were particularly vulnerable because of lack of access to protection, education, health care and economic opportunities.

“On behalf of the NGO and UN partners in Yemen, I appeal to donors, Gulf and Yemeni partners to support the 2014 humanitarian response plan,” the Humanitarian Coordinator added. “Yemen is going through a positive political transition, but this process can only succeed when the humanitarian needs of millions of vulnerable Yemenis are fully met.”



## UNDP releases findings of multi-dimensional livelihoods assessment

The United Nations Development Program on Tuesday released its report on multi-dimensional livelihoods assessment in conflict affected areas in Yemen.

The report, which targeted the provinces of Abyan, Amran, Haja and Taiz, has included quantitative and qualitative surveys, data analysis and assessment findings on multi-dimensional livelihoods assessment in conflict affected areas.

It suggested strategies which might overcome challenges and consequences resulted by conflicts and catastrophes.

Minister of Industry and Trade, Dr. Saad Eddin Bin Taleb commended the report’s findings, pointing out that Yemen witnessed various forms of conflicts as well as natural disasters that, according to him, affected living standards of Yemen’s population.



## WFP approves two-year relief and recovery operation in Yemen

The governing body of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), the WFP Executive Board, has approved a two-year, US\$491-million operation, aimed at supporting a gradual shift from relief food assistance to promoting recovery and building resilience and livelihoods among vulnerable and food-insecure people in Yemen.

The operation, which aims to provide assistance to some 6 million people, covers a range of activities, including food and cash distributions, food or cash for work and assets, treatment and prevention of acute and chronic malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies, and meals and take-home rations for children regularly attending school.

“Our actions will buy hope for millions of Yemenis, meeting the food needs of the most vulnerable today, while building resilience to secure the needs of tomorrow,” said WFP Yemen Representative and Country Director Bishow Parajuli in his address to the Executive Board. “We aim to provide a solid foundation for others to build on.”

Parajuli described Yemen as a country with great potential, but noted that it was beset with problems, such as high insecurity, conflict, rising poverty, under-development, severe food insecurity and alarming rates of malnutrition. However, the recent conclusion of the National Dialogue Conference, in which participants had reached a consensus on the future direction and structure of the country had provided a “glimmer of hope.”



## Cooperation between Yemen, IOM discussed

Yemeni Minister of Expatriate Affairs Mujahid Al-Qahali and Chief of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) mission in Sana’a Nicoletta Giordano on Tuesday discussed cooperation in the fields of migration and expatriates.

Al-Qahali praised efforts exerted by IOM regarding deported Yemenis, stressing that the Ministry of Expatriate Affairs will cooperate with the organization in providing needed services to expatriates.

For her part, Giordano affirmed that IOM would cooperate with the ministry, commending the ministry’s cooperation with Yemeni expatriates returning to Yemen, particularly those deported by Saudi Arabia.



## Agriculture Minister, Representative of FAO briefed on alternative crops in Tehama

Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation Farid Mojawar and Resident Representative of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Dr. Salah Haj Hassan, got acquainted with the experiments carried out by the Agriculture Research Station in Tehama branch on the crop of “Quinoa”, which entered for the first time to Yemen within alternative crops.

These experiments are performed on the crop within the framework of a regional project includes five countries, including Yemen, with funding from the FAO and lasts two years in order to increase agricultural production and improve the nutrition of livestock as Quinoa crop is one of crops rich in protein compared to other grain crops.

The minister and his accompanying researchers and specialists listened to an explanation about the steps taken by these experiments, which study 63 plant species in the Agricultural Research Stations in Hodeidah and Dhamar.



## Children's Parliament concludes final session

The Children's Parliament has concluded its final session for the period 2011-2013 in the Parliament House's small hall.

The sessions were attended by government representatives and a number of international organizations, members of the Media Network.

The final session discussed a number of important issues with focus on the recommendations of Geneva meeting, the outputs of the National Dialogue Conference and the involvement of children in armed conflicts. During the last two days, the Children's Parliament members were trained in advocacy and how to draft and design their messages to the decision makers. This session was funded by Save the Children International in partnership with the democratic school.

Jerry Farrell, the Country Director of Save the Children International in Yemen stated that all Children in Yemen have the Right to Participation and be empowered.

"I believe strongly in the Children's Parliament as a forum for Children and young people to make their voices heard at all levels and they will play a role in improving the Children's situation as future leaders in their community," Farrell ensured.

Since 2000, The Children's Parliament, with support from the Democratic School, held five elections. Every two years, the Children's Parliament holds an election which follows democratic processes in accordance with Yemeni election laws.

**Save the Children** has been supporting the Children's Parliament over the years. In 2010 election, the Children's Parliament members increased from 38 children to 50 children to make it a body that represents all Children in Yemen from all sections including: boys, girls, working children, orphans, children with disabilities, and children from minorities.

Save the Children International, advocate for including refugee Children in the coming election for Children's Parliament 2012 as all Children in Yemen have the same rights. For the first time, refugee Children will be representatives in the Children's Parliament election that will be launched in April, 2012 and about 5 members will be acting as observers and will be able to address issues regarding refugees in Yemen.

According to **UNHCR** report on Dec. 2011, the number of Refugees recognized by the Government are 204,685 and most of them are Somalis and the Refugees recognized under UNHCR's mandate reached to 215,707 mainly from Ethiopia 4,933, Eritrea 918, Iraqi 4,259, Others 912. In addition, there are new Arrivals at the Coast for 2011 reaching 103,154. Yemen is the only country in the Arabian Peninsula to be signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol.

## Unmet humanitarian needs could threaten Yemen's progress, stability – UN official

While Yemen has made good progress in its political transition, the country will not enjoy stability unless the humanitarian needs of its people are met, a senior United Nations relief official warned today.

"There will be no stability in Yemen if more than half of the population is waking up in the morning without the possibility to have food; is living below the line of poverty," Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Yemen, told a news conference in Geneva.

"What does it mean, then, to organize elections or have any political process if people are still suffering from humanitarian needs?"

Political stability must go hand in hand with development, he stated, noting that the country has suffered a series of internal conflicts in recent years, which have led to insecurity and a lack of development.

More than half of the population of 25 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, including 13 million who do not have access to safe drinking water. There are also close to 250,000 registered refugees and close to 400,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs).



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

## MESSAGE ON WORLD RADIO DAY

13 February 2014



World Radio Day recognizes the unique role and impact of a medium that reaches the largest audience worldwide.

This year's observance highlights the need for radio broadcasters everywhere to promote the voice of women and to enhance the role of women within broadcast organizations.

The airwaves have frequently lagged behind when it comes to gender equality. Not nearly enough women's voices are heard -- either in front or behind the microphone.

Not nearly enough stories about women and girls are being told.

And women make up only a quarter of the members of the boards of the world's media enterprises. I encourage radio stations to be more inclusive by equally recognizing women in their staff and in their audience.

Radio can also help dismantle stereotypical and imbalanced programming.

This is an opportunity for everyone. Let us celebrate this World Radio Day by saluting women in radio today -- and doing out utmost to culture the new voices for tomorrow.

### FM meets with UNICEF Representative

Foreign Minister Abu Bakr al-Qirbi discussed here on Tuesday with UNICEF's representative in Yemen Julien Harneis aspects of cooperation between Yemen and the UNICEF and ways of enhancing them. Al-Qirbi praised the UNICEF's role in Yemen, stressing the government's keenness to improve children situation in Yemen and overcome the negative consequences caused by the crisis that Yemen had witnessed.

For his part, the UNICEF's representative affirmed that UNICEF is ready to provide all aspects of possible support to Yemen in area of promoting children's rights.

### Reducing child mortality in Hodeida Province

Tiny children with gaunt bodies—their bones protruding from their skin—wail while lying in the arms of their parents inside a malnutrition treatment center in the Al-Danabeqa village in the Al-Tohaita district of Hodeida governorate.

According to UNICEF, Yemen has the second-highest rate of stunting in the world, behind Afghanistan. One in every two children is stunted, meaning both the growth of their brains and bodies is affected by a lack of nutrition.

More than four in 10 children are moderately or severely underweight (second only to East Timor), UNICEF says, and more than 250,000 Yemeni children suffer from severe acute malnutrition and risk death as a result.

The World Health Organization (WHO) says that “more than half of early child deaths are due to conditions that could be prevented or treated with access to simple, affordable interventions, such as improved nutrition.”



Supervised by:  
**ABDUSALAM SHARAFUDDIN**  
[abdusalam.sharafuddin@unic.org](mailto:abdusalam.sharafuddin@unic.org)

Designed By:  
**SAMEER AL-SANABANI**  
[sameer.al-sanabani@unic.org](mailto:sameer.al-sanabani@unic.org)

Bawnia St. Handal Zone, next to Al-Madrassa Al-Dimocratia,  
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

P.O.Box : (237), Tel : 967-1-274000  
Fax :967-1-274043