



FAO launches water use management project in Sana'a basin

11 November 2014

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Yemen has launched officially the Sana'a Basin Project on decentralized sustainable water use and rural livelihood.

The project was launched during a workshop held on Monday [November 10th] in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Ministry of Water and Environment and the Embassy of the Netherlands in Sana'a. FAO also presented in the workshop the concept of a similar project in the Tehama Basin to start in early 2015.

The Sana'a Basin Project is a three-year program aiming to raise awareness on water scarcity at local community levels in order to motivate the farmers to decrease groundwater abstraction.

"This event will highlight the importance of integrated water resources management at Sana'a



and Tihama basins that will increase crop production and improve the revenue from agriculture sector in the two sub basins," said Salah El-Hajj, the FAO representative in Yemen. He said that all water laws prohibiting illegal groundwater abstraction did not prevent violations in Sana'a basin groundwater through illegal and unpermitted drilling wells in the basin which its area is about 3,250 km².

Most of Yemen basins are facing excessive abstraction, which has been estimated by 138% from annual renewable water which is estimated by 2.1 billion m³, he added. "The project's goal is to mitigate abstraction from groundwater from Sana'a basin and creation or/and reactivating of water user associations, in addition to support of crop production systems with low amount of water."

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UNFPA, COS Discusses Completing 2014 Census

16 November 2014

The United Nations Fund Population (UNFPA) and the Central Organization for Statistics (COS) as well as the international donors discussed on Monday the procedures required to complete the general census 2014 in collaboration with the UNFPA.

Dr. Hasan Farhan, the head of the COS, stated that the COS has achieved most of the requirements of the census, and only very few requirements needed to be achieved to conduct the census. He confirmed that the census is supposed to be achieved in December 2014, however, it will be delayed due to the incidents that took place during the past period.

He added that the organization will coordinate with the new government and the ministry of finance to provide the required funds to complete the census process, indicating that a republican decree will be issued to determine the assign time night.

Farhan informed the UNFPA and the donors about what has been achieved regarding the steps of census like the forms, technical programs and devices which will be used in the census, the new properties of the census forms and how to discharge the forms results into special computer programs. The UNFPA, Len Christiansen, stressed on the significance of the census to obtain precise data on the state population, its demography, social and economic properties to be used for putting economic and developmental plans.





WFP values Japanese aid for school feeding in Yemen

10/November/2014

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) on Monday valued highly the Japanese donation of US\$5.3 million to support on-site school feeding up to the end of the current school year.

The donation was confirmed at a signing ceremony in Rome on 7 November.

"This is a new activity for WFP Yemen, which we have been able to launch entirely as a result of Japan's support," said WFP Yemen Deputy Country Director and Officer-in-Charge Rukia Yacoub. "With this latest donation, we can continue to provide snacks to children attending school right through the year."



"I believe this food aid will contribute directly to the alleviation of the impacts of food shortages as well as the improvement of people's nutritional status in this country," said Japanese ambassador to Yemen Katsuyoshi Hayashi.

Under this operation, WFP will provide a daily snack, consisting of a nutritious date bar, to some 295,000 primary and secondary schoolchildren regularly attending school, to encourage attendance and help them to concentrate during lessons.

Japan is the third largest donor to WFP Yemen – in 2013, Japan contributed more than US\$30 million.

"We are extremely grateful for this generous and consistent support, especially at this time when so many emergencies around the world are competing for limited funding,"

Yacoub said.

School feeding in Yemen is being carried out under WFP's current two-year Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation, which aims to provide assistance to some 6 million Yemenis, through activities such as relief food assistance, food and cash for work, school feeding, and nutritional support for women and young children.

The operation is supporting a gradual shift from relief assistance to resilience-building and livelihood support, with a view to lifting the most vulnerable Yemeni populations out of food insecurity and poverty and providing them with the means to create a sustainable future.

Yemen to get business environment support from WB

17/November/2014



Minister of Industry and Trade Mohammed al-Sa'di met here on Monday with the Resident Representative of Foundation Development at the World Bank (WB) in Yemen Raymond Conway.

At the meeting, al-Sa'di and Conway discussed the cooperation aspects between the ministry and the foundation regarding support provided by the foundation to facilitate business environment.

They also discussed the mechanism to update the single-window system in the ministry and to facilitate the registration of companies, equipment and assets, as well as the technical support that could be provided by the foundation in this field.



Yemen’s Children Celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

November 20, 2014

Today, Yemen as one of 194 countries worldwide, celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). A children's festival in Sana'a, organized on November 19, and the anniversary celebrations on November 20 were held under the patronage of HE President of Yemen Abd Rabo Mansour Hadi.

Throughout the last few months, thousands of Yemeni children from ten governorates participated in a wide range of activities as part of a national campaign known as “25 Years Strong – Let’s Unite for Children”. Through creative, participatory and inclusive activities including poetry, music, painting, drawing, photography and short film making, the campaign highlighted the rights of the child and the positive changes inspired by the CRC towards improving the lives of children in Yemen.

“I feel extremely happy to see how children have been depicting their rights and aspirations,” said UNICEF acting representative Jeremy Hopkins. “these beautiful outcomes from across the country serve as a strong reminder of child rights for us all. These children inspire and motivate us to work even harder with and for them.”

According to Mr. Hopkins, there are numerous examples of how the CRC has had a positive impact on children’s lives in Yemen, from declining infant mortality to rising school enrolment particularly among girls; establishment of juvenile justice for children; and the signing of an action plan with the government to end child recruitment.

“However,” Hopkins added, “challenges exist and much remains to be done. We should unite efforts; bring all stakeholders together; and move forward for the best interests of the children and the realization of their

full rights.”

Amid ongoing conflicts and political turmoil in some parts of Yemen, children showed strong resilience and that they are determined to maintain and enjoy their full rights.

The “25 Years Strong” campaign provided creative platforms to Yemeni children to enable them to express their views and aspirations of their rights in their own ways. A 1.5km 'marathon' was organized in Sanaa in early November in Sanaa for more than 350 children including challenged, marginalized, and out of school children. A dozen orientation workshops were organized for children in painting, photography, music, poetry and film-making. Children competed in all of these activities and 15 of them were awarded in the anniversary ceremony.

The activities are led by Equal Access – Yemen, an international NGO, with Yemen Music House and Yemen Film Festival and in partnership with the Higher Council of Motherhood and Childhood and several government ministries.

Since its adoption by the UN General Assembly on 20 November 1989, the Convention has become the most widely ratified international human rights treaty in history. Yemen ratified this crucial treaty in 1991.

The Convention established the body of all children’s civil and political rights, as well as their economic, social and cultural rights. It advocates for the protection and promotion of the rights of children with special needs, of minority and refugee children. It also establishes the principles that govern the implementation of the rights it advocates, namely; the right to life, survival and development, protection from abuse and exploitation and full participation in family, cultural and social life.





Yemen, UNDP discuss enhancing judiciary system

19/November/2014

Yemen and the United Nations development Programme (UNDP) reviewed here on Wednesday the supporting judiciary and the rule of law project in Yemen during the transitional stage.

In a separate meeting held in Sana'a, Chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) Ali Nasser Sallem and Dean of the Higher Judicial Institute Abdul-Malik al-Jendari reviewed with UNDP Good Governance Project Director Edward Christow the means to carry out the long-term decisions and to address immediate needs for judiciary and the rule of law.



They touched upon the program's priorities to increase the justice and rule of law services at the local level and to build public's confidence in the judicial bodies via providing technical assistance in the fields of ongoing training and capacity-building and establishment of a modern electric system to facilitate judicial work.

They also reviewed the first draft of the project that includes a strategy on judiciary independence, capacity building and access to judiciary.

The SJC chairman pointed out the importance of focusing on the practical aspects which help to make the justice services more efficient, underlining the readiness to provide all facilities and full cooperation with the UNDP.

For his part, the UNDP Project Director valued the cooperation of judiciary leadership and all facilities provided for the UN team.

Christow expressed adherence to respond to the requirements of building the capacity of the judiciary authority cadres, and to work on the program to include all aspects related to upgrading judicial services.

Yemen, UNHCR, IOM discuss asylum and migration issues

17/November/2014



Deputy Foreign Minister - Chairman of the National Committee for Refugees - Amir al-Aidaroos has met here with the joint envoy of UN High Commissioner for Refugees and International Organization for Migration (IOM) Lorenza Rossi.

They discussed mechanisms to follow up outcomes of the Sana'a regional conference on asylum and migration from the Horn of Africa to Yemen.

The issues of common concern were discussed during the meeting, as well as the emphasis on identifying priorities that must be implemented in accordance with the Sana'a Declaration to reduce the flow of illegal immigrants and refugees to Yemen.

The meeting also touched on the coordination with neighboring countries with a view to cooperate and coordinate their joint efforts to address the challenges related to the problems of asylum and immigration.



UNFPA receives Dutch grant worth €3 mln for reproductive health in Yemen

27/November/2014



Yemen and the Kingdom of Netherlands signed here on Thursday a €3 million grant agreement to finance medical supplies for the reproductive health program in Yemen.

Under the agreement, which was signed by Minister of Public Health and Population Dr. Riyadh Yassin and d'Affairs of Dutch embassy in Sana'a, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Sana'a will be in charge of purchasing and delivering the medical supplies to the program for the next two years, 2015 -2016.

The agreement aims to provide basic health services to the citizens, especially women and children.

After the signing of the agreement, the minister expressed Yemen's appreciation to the Dutch government and the UNFPA for their support for the health programs in Yemen.

On another hand, Dr. Yassin discussed here with the health official in the Middle East and North Africa at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), who is currently visiting Yemen, the health cooperation relations between his ministry and the Committee.

The meeting touched on the health situation in the provinces where the ICRC is working in particular and in Yemen in general, as well as the areas of coordination between the ministry and the committee to provide medical services to the needy in the tension and conflict areas.

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FAO launches water use management project

Dutch ambassador to Sana'a Aldrik Gierveld underlined the need to strengthen Yemeni capacity to manage water resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

"Two projects are already underway through ALTERRA – the Dutch-Yemeni consortium and FAO. The first one will provide stakeholders in sustainable water management with reliable information on water use and available water resources," said Gierveld.

"Reliable information should be publicly available to enable all to make the right decisions. The project we have signed with FAO in July is the second activity; this activity is focusing on the vulnerable Sana'a Basin". He added that empowering farmer groups to sustainably manage their precious water resources is the main focus of FAO's work with water user associations in this basin.

Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation Fareed Mujawar, who attended the project launch, thanked the Dutch government for financing the project and their constant support for the water sector in Yemen.

He underlined the need for official and popular cooperation in water resources management and activating the role of basins committees to end random drilling and draw the right water plans.

According to the Minister, the key reasons of water depletion in the Sana'a basin are the population growth rate in the capital [reached 7% per year] and the decrease of rainfall water level, which does not meet agricultural activities.

He said that the annual withdrawal in Tihama basin increased to 810 million cubic meters compared to annual recharging estimated at 550 million cubic meters which means that deficit is estimated at 47 percent in the Tihama Basin.



Yemen, IFAD, EU sign MoU to activate EOP

18/November/2014



IFAD
INTERNATIONAL
FUND FOR
AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT

Yemen, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the European Union (EU) signed on Sunday in Cairo, Egypt, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to activate the Economic Opportunities Programme (EOP).

Under the MoU, IFAD and EU provide the logistical and technical assistance to Yemen in order to launch the EOP. It also includes the measures should be taken from November 2014 to February 2015 to improve the Programme's competence in order to improve the economic and living conditions of rural poor women and men.

The MoU was signed by Deputy Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Mutaher al-Abbasi, director of IFAD department for Near East, North Africa, Europe and Central Asia Khalida Bouzar and an EU representative.

Yemen partakes in ICN2 in Rome

18/November/2014



Yemen participates in the 2nd International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) to be held at Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Headquarters in Rome, Italy on November 19-21.

The Conference, which is organized by the FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO), will build on ongoing global political processes and initiatives to contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda including identifying priority areas, nutrition development goals as well as the policies that are required to achieve, measure and account for them.

"The outcome of the ICN2 will contribute to the UN Secretary-General's call for a high degree of policy coherence at global, regional, national and sub-national levels and a global partnership for development at all levels. The ICN2 will also enlarge on the Secretary-General's call to leaders gathered at the Rio+20 Summit to take up the "Zero Hunger Challenge."

Minister of Public Health and Population Riyadh Abdullah said that the conference aims to reshape the global food system to respond the needs of the world's population taking into account the emerging challenges on health, nutrition and environmental levels.

He added the conference seeks to strengthen national mechanisms for food security and nutrition through the government departments and activate the United Nations' policies, strategies, programs, funds and agencies as well as strengthening health systems and developing full health coverage.



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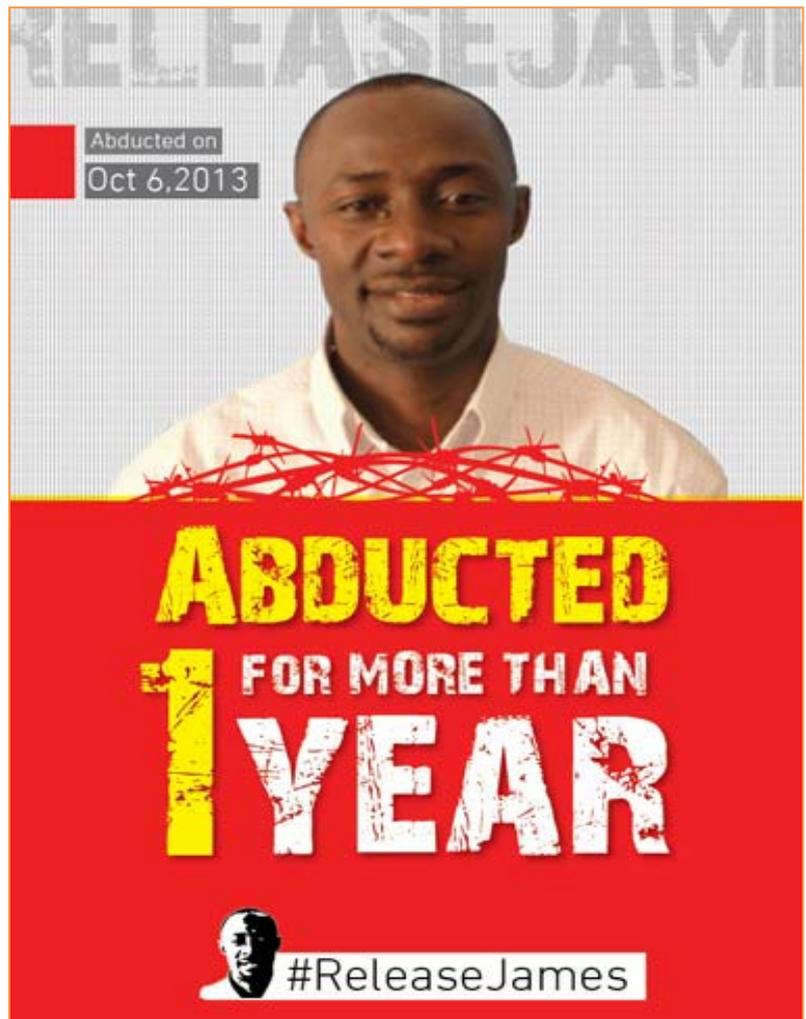
Statement on release of kidnapped United Nations staff member in Yemen

8 November 2014

Colleagues at the United Nations are delighted that James Massaquoi, who was abducted in Yemen in October 2013, has today been released and is safe and well.

James is a water engineer who has been working in Yemen to help provide water and sanitation services in order to improve the health of local children. We all are proud of the work James has been doing and look forward to his return to work for children once he has spent much-needed time with his family and friends.

We thank the Government of Yemen and tribal leaders, including Mr Abdallah Saleh Hafrien, who have supported efforts to bring about his safe release and we ask that he now be allowed privacy as he enjoys his reunion with his family.





THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

UN Secretary-General welcomes new government formation

08/November/2014

The UN Secretary-General Ban-Ki Moon has welcomed announcement of the formation of the new government in Yemen.

In a statement read out by the Secretary-General's spokesman, Ban-Ki Moon congratulated President Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi and Prime Minister-Designate Khaled Bahah for their leadership during the formation of the new government.

The Secretary-General commended the parties for their pledge to accept the slate decided on by the President and Prime Minister, and to extend their unwavering support to the new government.

He said that the announcement is a positive step towards political stability and peace in the country, especially "at this uncertain and fragile time for Yemen."

The Secretary-General reminded the parties of the political commitments they made in signing the Peace and National Partnership Agreement. "Yemen is facing enormous challenges at present, which can only be overcome if all sides work together in the greater national interest to implement the Agreement without delay."

The United Nations looks forward to continuing its engagement with the President, the Prime Minister, the Government and all Yemeni leaders as they seek to build a new democratic Yemen that responds to the legitimate aspirations of its people, Ban-Ki Moon said.



Supervised by:
ABDUSALAM SHARAFUDDIN
abdusalam.sharafuddin@unic.org

Designed By:
SAMEER AL-SANABANI
sameer.al-sanabani@unic.org

Bawnia St. Handal Zone, next to Handal Mosque,
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
P.O.Box : (237), Tel : 967-1-274000
Fax :967-1-274043
Website : <http://sanaa.sites.unicnetwork.org/>