UNDP-funded projects, support trends in Yemen discussed

14/January/2015

Yemen and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have discussed issues related to the UNDP-funded projects and support trends in Yemen.

During their meeting, Planning and International Cooperation Mohamed al-Maitami and the UNDP Country Director Ms. Mikiko Tanaka reviewed the bilateral cooperation relations between Yemen and the UNDP and means to develop them in order to serve common interests of both sides.

Al-Maitami pointed out to the significance role of the UNDP in propurg up paths of development and stability in Yemen.

Ms. Tanaka noted to the UNDP's keenness to continue providing the overall required support for the government to carry out its program in the coming period.

UNIC and UNCG organize A Seminar on Resilience

On January 13, 2015 United Nations Communication Group (UNCG) through the cooperation of UNIC Sana’a organized a one day event for the Yemeni journalists on the “Resilience” what it means and what the UN is doing to build resilience in Yemen. The event aimed also to give the journalists an idea about this important issue. The event started with showing a short film that dealt with the Syrian Humanitarian crisis and the suffering of Syrian people due to the ongoing conflict in their country. In the Seminar, presentations on the resilience were given by Dr. Mohammed Sallam/ Assistant Representative of FAO and other UN officials from IFAD, UN RC office and WFP. Before the event was concluded a Q&A session was opened for the journalists who raised number of issues related to this topic. The event was held at UNDP office and was attended by 25 journalists and UN officials from different UN organizations. The event was attended.
Population issue in Yemen is high on UNFPA priorities: Christiansen

12/January/2015

The population issue in Yemen is high on the United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA) list of priorities, said UNFPA Resident Coordinator in Yemen on Monday.

During her meeting with Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Mohamed al-Maitami, Ms. Lene Christiansen expressed the Fund's keenness to continue its assistance to Yemen, noting to the great challenges imposed by the population issue in Yemen.

The Minister reviewed the challenges Yemen faces due to hike of the population growth in the country, urging the UNFPA to play further effective role in backing the government's efforts aiming to address the issue.

Al-Maitami hailed the UNFPA's endeavors to support the stability and development paths in Yemen through carrying out the UNFPA-funded country program, indicated to the need to expand the Fund's interventions to help the government to alleviate the repercussions of the population program in Yemen.

WFP offers $ 87 mln to support education in Yemen

14/January/2015

Minister of Education Dr. Haidar Abdullatif and acting resident representative of the World Food Programme (WFP) in Sana'a Ruqyah Yaqoob signed Wednesday a $ 87 million agreement for the education support project.

The project targets 275 thousands students in its first year by giving light meals to 160 thousands students during the school day in the poorest areas and providing food aid for 115 thousands school girls within the ministry's effort to support the girl education, the minister Haidar explained.

Haidar pointed out that the project will expand next year to target 515 thousand students by providing light meals to 300 thousand students and aid food for 215 thousand girls.

The minister valued the WFP contribution to the education support project, calling for the expansion in such programs aiming at encouraging education, especially among girls.
Visit of the Representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN in Yemen to Tihama

January 30 2015

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Represented by Dr. Salah ElHajj Hassan, representative of the FAO in Yemen carried out a field visit to a number of targeted areas within technical support project for small holder farmers of dairy in Hodeida and its surrounding areas. The visit included Al-Awamra, Al-Malakya and Al-Mahd Al-Awsat. The milk collection mechanism by small holder farmers, challenges that they face in livestock husbandry, milk production and distribution, animal feeds were identified and the main proposals to encounter those challenges were made.

Dr. Salah ElHajj Hassan stated that the project which is financed by the FAO aims to support a group of small holder dairy farmers in Hodeida and its surrounding areas with rapid interventions to encounter the challenges faced by the dairy producers with focus on skills development of dairy small holder farmers in production increase, quality and marketing with the provision of milk production facilities for processing and refrigerating.

He added that the project will use a strategic approach in activities implementation on the partnership basis between the famers and the private sector (Dairy Plan), the government departments represented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the Tihama Development Authority and the Animal Health and Veterinary Quarantine General Administration to ensure sustainability and efficiency. He stressed on the need to support small holder farmers to enhance the value chains and the added value for milk production and distribution to raise efficiency and quality and to improve the income as well as to establish a successful action in the area by benefiting from successful experiences and practices plus the FAO experience in this field.

Dr. Chedli kayouli, international consultant of animal wealth and dairy, Dr. Abdulwahid Mukrid, head of the Food Security Technical Secretariat (FSTS) of the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, Dr. Mohamed Noman Sallam, FAOR assistant, Dr. Mansour Al-Qadasi, national coordinator of the Food Security Information Systems, Dr. Fadhl Abdullah Al-Amri, national expert and animal health officer in Hodeida took part in this visit to Tihama.

Arrangements for WHO Regional Director visit to Yemen discussed

06/January/2015

Health Minister Riyadh Yassin and World Health Organization (WHO) representative in Sana'a Ahmed Chadol reviewed on Tuesday the arrangements for the upcoming visit of WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean Ala Alwan to Yemen.

During the meeting held in the presence of a WHO expert delegation visiting Yemen currently, Yassin invited WHO Regional Director to participate in National Medical Conference for Health Development slated for March 23-26 in Aden.

Yassin and Chadol discussed the work progress of WHO-funded health programmes in Yemen.

The Minister hailed the support and assistances provided by the organization to Yemen in health field.
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region (CRC) warned Tuesday from the movement of desert locusts swarms towards the nearby countries, including Yemen.

The FAO and CRC called those countries in danger of invasion to strengthen the control capacity and monitoring the desert locusts swarms which are expected to arrive with the monsoon.

The desert locusts swarms are serious danger to agricultural production in the Near East, Southwest Asia and Africa. Locusts swarms can wipe out crops located hundreds of kilometers from their places of origin and create starvation conditions in regions that are already financially challenged and vulnerable to food security.

UNHCR: 91,592 African migrants reach Yemen's shore in 2014

At least 91,592 people reached Yemen's coasts from the Horn of Africa during 2014, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said.

A total of 246 individuals died in and around Yemeni waters throughout 2014, according to UNHCR's latest report.

"Tragically we ended 2014 with more people dying in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden than ever before, making it the deadliest year in recent memory", said Johannes van der Klaauw, UNHCR Representative in Yemen.

UNHCR urged all actors concerned to take the action needed to ensure 2015 does not continue the tragic and deadly record set by 2014 for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers coming to Yemen via the sea.

Klaauw pointed out that the increasingly cruel measures being adopted by smuggling and trafficking rings seem to account for the increase in deaths at sea.

"Boats crossing to Yemen are often perilously overcrowded, and smugglers and traffickers have reportedly thrown passengers overboard to prevent capsizing or avoid detection", UNHCR Representative said.

The decrease in arrivals witnessed in 2013 was not sustained in 2014 which grew, in the second half of the year, to levels last seen in 2011 and 2012 when, in each year, over 100,000 people reached Yemen, Klaauw elaborated.

He added that September 2014 saw 12,768 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers come to Yemen, the highest monthly total since records were established in 2002.

According to the UNHCR' report, the factors behind this surge are believed to include ongoing drought in South-Central Somalia, as well as the combined effects of conflict, insecurity, and lack of livelihood opportunities in countries of origin.

Moreover, the surge can also be attributed to a decreasing level of cooperation between the countries in the region to better manage migratory movements.

The UNHCR explained in its report that the migrants and asylum-seekers arrive in Yemen coasts after they have exhausted their strength and dehydrate due to the trouble journey.

UNHCR and its partners provide first aid and food at three coastal transit centres. Transport is then provided to the nearest reception center for those people to be registered and have their protection needs identified, referred and addressed.
The New Role of Media in Supporting and Advocating for Population Issues in Yemen

2/January/2015

Under the patronage of H.E Mr. Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi, the President of the Republic, UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, and the Yemeni Family Care Association (YFCA) organized the 4th annual meeting of national Population Forum of NGOs in Sana’a on 14 December 2014. The 2-day forum was held under the theme of “The new Role of Media in Supporting and Advocating for Population issues”. At the opening, Ms. Lene K. Christiansen, the UNFPA Representative to Yemen, encouraged the Population Forum members to consider the global developments into the their discussion including the review of the MDGs, the crafting of the Post 2015 Development Agenda and the review of the Programme of Action of the ICPD. “This is particularly relevant for Yemen at this historical juncture where it defines its future based on the outcomes of the National Dialogue Conference”, Ms. Christiansen added. Ms. Christiansen spoke about UNFPA’s efforts in advancing population agenda. “A number of regional and global thematic meetings – regional youth forum, women forum, global parliamentarian meeting, etc. – were held to discuss and review the ICPD Agenda Beyond 2014 and the Post 2015 Development Agenda. Some members from NGOs and parliament were supported by UNFPA to attend those meetings”. The UNFPA Representative touched upon the theme of forum for this year and stressed on the important role of media in supporting population issues particularly reproductive health. “The media can raise public awareness of family planning as a basic human right that underpins progress on many fronts. Media attention is also critical to holding policy-makers accountable for spending public resources wisely and equitably to improve citizens’ lives”. On his part, Dr. Raydh Yassin, the Minister of Public Health and Population, called upon the Population Forum members to come up with effective and non-traditional recommendations to address the various population challenges in Yemen. The Minister commended the role of development partners including UNFPA in supporting the efforts of the Government in different areas.

The Advisor to Yemeni President on Media Affairs, Mr. Mahbob Ali, stated that population issue is one the major challenges in the country stressing the necessity to invest in the people. “Human investment is the best and a fundamental pillar for development”. Mr. Mahboob pointed out that the current Government is rich with a number of development programs including advocating for population issues. The Presidential Advisor called upon the NGOs to be active partners with the government institutions to work collectively for the future generations and for a promising future for the Yemeni people.

The Deputy of the Ministry of Information, Mr. Younes Hazza, conveyed that the leadership of the Ministry would pay heed to population matters ensuring a better advocacy for population issues especially in the current situation.

The Chairperson of the Population Forum, Dr. Abdulsalam Al-Aqil, and the Secretary General of the National Population Council, Dr. Ahmed Borgi, pointed in their speeches to the importance of unifying the efforts to address the population issue in Yemen.

Mr. Himyar Abdulmoghi, UNFPA Assistant Representative, delivered a presentation that highlighted the recent developments regarding the ICPD beyond 2104 and the Post 2015 Development Agenda and the expected role of NGOs in light of these developments.

A number of working papers were presented during the two-day event discussing support for population issues in Yemen from the perspective of government, academia, and NGOs. The event yielded recommendations to better enhance the work of the Population Forum in the future. The event was attended by more than 100 people representing government, donors, international NGOs, Parliament, Al-Shura Council, academia, media, local NOGs, and members of the population forum from different governorates.
WFP AGREEMENT WITH EDUCATION MINISTRY CLEARS WAY FOR SCHOOL FEEDING IN YEMEN

21 January 2015

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has signed an agreement with the Yemen Ministry of Education, clearing the way to start on-site school feeding and to provide take home rations for hundreds of thousands of schoolchildren in food-insecure areas of Yemen.

The agreement, signed by Minister of Education Abdulateef Haider and WFP Yemen Deputy Country Director and Officer-in-Charge Rukia Yacoub, will initially target 163,000 children with a daily snack at school, as well as take-home rations for 115,000 girls regularly attending school.

“The main aim of this project is to boost enrolment and attendance rates. We also believe a nutritious snack at school will improve children’s ability to concentrate and learn,” said Yacoub. “And the take-home ration will encourage parents to keep their daughters at school, as well as improving the food security of their families.”

The on-site school feeding is funded by Japan, with a donation of US$6 million and South Korea with US$300,000, while Germany provided US$10 million for take-home rations for girls.

“These generous donations mean that we have no funding concerns for the current school year. But if we are going to expand the programme considerably from October, as is planned, we are going to be seeking further substantial donations,” said Yacoub.

The on-site school snack consists of date bars, fortified with micronutrients. The take-home family ration is wheat and vegetable oil, calculated to make up 25 percent of household needs and thus cover the shortfall for families in food insecure areas over the academic year.

UNICEF organizes workshop on early marriage

11/January/2015

The UNICEF has organized a workshop on early marriage and its psychological effects on girls in the governorates of Aden, Lahij, Abyan and al-Dalih.

The workshop was attended by 42 activists from civil society organizations and reviewed a number of work papers focused on the risks of early marriage and the importance of giving girls the right to enroll in education.

The negative impacts of early marriages, and the physical and health bad consequences on the future of girls was also touched upon on the workshop.
WFP to continue to support Yemen addressing food shortage

22/January/2015

The World Food Programme (WFP) is committed to assist Yemen's efforts aiming to address the food shortage problem, the WFP Regional Director said Thursday.

During his meeting with Deputy Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Mutahar al-Abbasi, Mohamed Diab affirmed the WFP's keenness to continue supporting Yemen to realize food security.

He also reviewed a number of projects and programs implemented and funded by the WFP in Yemen and the future trends of the Programme's aid to Yemen.

Al-Abbasi hailed the vital role played by the WFP backing the policies and programs of the government in order to tackle the food shortage and enhance food security in the country.

IOM organizes course on capacity building in human rights field

2/January/2015

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) organized here on Wednesday a training course on capacity building in field of protection of the rights of human in the context of migration and funded by the British government.

The two-day course aims to familiarize the 26 participants from the judiciary, prosecution, security and passport bodies in the governorates of Aden, Lahij, Abyan, Shabwa and Hadramout with the IOM tasks and activities in Yemen.

The participants would also get acquainted with concepts of human trafficking and its forms, smuggling of migrants and immigration laws in accordance with national law and international conventions.

Int'l organizations to carry out 2-year humanitarian plan in Yemen

13/January/2015

UNHCR representative in Yemen revealed on Tuesday the international organizations will carry out a two-year humanitarian plan in Yemen.

During his meeting with Sa'ada governor Mohamed Awadh, Johannes Van Der Klaauw said that Sa'ada province would gain a big part of the plan, which would focus on life-saving interventions in emergency situations and finding sustainable solutions.

The Governor urged the UN organizations to redouble their efforts to alleviate the suffering of the internally displaced persons (IDP) in Sa'ada, and provide their humanitarian needs.

In the presence of representatives of other international organizations working in the province, the governor and Klaauw reviewed the IDP's future needs and the means to enhance coordination among various concerned bodies.
MANY LANGUAGES, ONE WORLD

2015 Student Essay Contest and Global Youth Forum

Share your ideas and be heard... perhaps even in the General Assembly of the United Nations!

70 Students will be selected as delegates to the 2015 United Nations Academic Impact Global Youth Forum where they will create plans of action related to the United Nations Post-2015 Global Development Agenda. The students will present these plans of action at United Nations Headquarters in New York City.

Airfare, Room and Meals will be provided by ELS Educational Services, Inc.

To participate: Write an essay (2,000 words or less) related to the post-2015 global development agenda, in the context of the 70th anniversary of the United Nations, and the definition of new goals reflecting the imperative of global sustainable development that recognises, and is enriched by, cultural and linguistic diversity. You are encouraged to visit the website http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org for background material in this regard.

Entries must be in an official language of the United Nations that is not your first language and was not your principal language of instruction during your primary or secondary education. To enter, you must be a full-time university student and must be 18 years of age or older by March 25, 2015. Your participation must be sponsored by a Faculty Member or Authorized Representative at the university you are currently attending.

Essay Submission Deadline:
Wednesday March 25, 2015 at 11:59pm EST