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. 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.

UNDP Congratulates Government of Yemen on Launching the Partnership Framework with Civil Society Organizations

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) congratulates the Government of Yemen (GoY) on its remarkable achievement of launching the "Partnership Framework between the Government of Yemen and Civil Society Organizations" during the “Partnership for Development Knowledge Conference” held today at Movenpick Hotel in Sana’a. The partnership framework is part of the Government's commitment to the Mutual Accountability Framework (MAF) approved at Donors Meeting held in Riyadh in September 2012. The framework, which was endorsed by the Government in September 2013, shows that the GoY is dedicated to advancing sustainable development and improving service delivery throughout Yemen. Dr. Ahmed Shadoul, United Nations Resident Coordinator, a.i., explained "A close partnership between the GoY and CSOs in Yemen is a new concept, which should aim at empowering and engaging CSOs. The GoY realizes that development requires the participation of multi-stakeholders, including CSOs and the private sector, in policymaking, implementation, and evaluation."

The Government is now identifying CSOs as equal partners in development and is anticipated to facilitate their contribution to service deliver and policy development through this mutually agreed partnership framework. Dr. Edward Christow, UNDP Governance Team Leader Advisor, clarified that "the transition period that followed the 2011 events brought about new rights to protest, greater freedom of expression and opened the stage for emerging CSOs to organize and engage in formal and informal civil society activities and public dialogue." CSOs' participation in development policies will ease the burden of development and service delivery off the shoulders of the government.

The GoY sought the technical expertise of UNDP, through its Emergency Capacity Development Facility (ECDF) programme, to support the process of consultations and elaboration of the partnership framework. In this regard, UNDP is very committed to empowering CSOs to take part in public participation in which those who are affected by a decision are able to be involved in the decision-making processes. CSOs are currently well positioned to encourage public participation through a practical, transparant and well-defined partnership framework with the Government. UNDP will continue supporting both, the Government and CSOs, to advance this partnership and instill a culture of civil participation in government decision-making processes.
UN, Arab League launch new humanitarian plan for Yemen

Nearly 8 million Yemenis to receive humanitarian aid, most of whom struggle for access to food, water and proper healthcare in the conflict-torn country

Bassem Aly, Monday 17 Mar 2014

United Nations delegation convened at the Cairo-based headquarters of the Arab League on Monday to announce a humanitarian campaign for some 7.6 million Yemenis over the next year. The campaign, prepared by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), will hope to rebuild communities, assist refugees and migrants and also ensure equal access to amenities for a wider portion of Yemenis, all the while tackling what the UN report called the root problems the country's ongoing crisis.

Faeqa Saeed Al-Saleh, the Arab League's Assistant Secretary-General, said that the UN plan, which will be undertaken in coordination with the Yemeni government, aims to end the sufferings of the Yemeni people. Several OCHA reports were distributed at Monday's conference, highlighting the dire situation in Yemen, where over half of the country's nearly 24 million people need some form of assistance, most of it in terms of better access to food, water and healthcare.

Almost 20 percent of the country suffers from food scarcity, with over a million children acutely malnourished, according to an OCHA report. Al-Saleh urged those attending Monday's conference to present the UN report's findings to aid groups like Friends of Yemen, an international body formed in 2010 to help gather financial assistance for the country.

Mohamed Harmal, deputy head of the Yemeni government's unit for internally displaced persons (IDPs), expressed his country's appreciation for the role international organisations have played in Yemen and called for continued support. "Though the political process is progressing in Yemen, armed conflicts are affecting its socio-economic conditions," Harmal said.

OCHA attributed the country's current situation to a weak government, political instability and poor resource management. According to UN figures, over 243,000 registered refugees have sought asylum in Yemen, most of them from Somalia. More than 500,000 IDPs, returnees and other marginalised people are currently struggling to re-establish their livelihoods in rural areas still contaminated by mines and other explosive remnants of war.

On 25 January, Yemeni political factions concluded a national dialogue aiming to draft a new constitution and construct a federal political system, amid calls for independence from citizens in the south. The dialogue, launched in March 2013, followed a UN-backed transition deal that led to the resignation of former president Ali Abdullah Saleh, whose more than 30-year rule ended after a 2011 popular uprising in the Middle East's poorest country.

On 10 February of this year, Yemeni President Abdrabuh Mansur Hadi and the country's main political parties announced an agreement to transform the country into a six-region federation as part of the political transition. The six agreed-upon regions include four in the north, comprising Azal, Saba, Janad and Tahama, and two in the south, Aden and Hadramawt.

At the Arab League conference on Monday, Johannes van der Klaauw, UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Yemen, described the humanitarian crisis in Yemen as the largest around the world, "globally speaking," and insisted that it must be addressed if the political transition is to succeed.

The UN official stressed that the results of Yemen's recently completed national dialogue should be implemented in reality.
FAO Organizes workshop for corporate baseline survey

FAO organization held a workshop over the corporate baseline survey. The baseline survey is meant for the measurement of the extent of achievement of the FAO strategic goals attended by 30 representatives of the civil society, UN agencies, governmental and non-governmental agencies. The meeting addressed the detailed Questionnaire of the strategic goals which are:

1- Eradication of the hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition.
2- The sustainable increase and improvement of goods and services from the agricultural sector, forestry and fishery.
3- Poverty reduction in the rural areas.
4- To enable a comprehensive agricultural and food systems on local national and international level.
5- To achieve a more flexible level for the provision of decent livelihood level for facing the threats and crises.

FAO resident representative in Yemen pointed to the importance of the questionnaire to the organization for obtaining output indicators for monitoring what had been provided by FAO which will be for the good of the agricultural Sector and Yemen in general.

Planning Minister, USAID, WB discuss support for Yemen

Planning and International Cooperation Minister Mohammed al-Saadi, officials of the United States Agency for International Development and the World Bank on Sunday discussed cooperation and mutual relations and provision of support to Yemen.

Al-Saadi affirmed the importance of strengthening support of development projects in Yemen following the conclusion of the National Dialogue Conference (NDC).

Officials of USAID and WB were briefed on achievements made by Yemen, and preparations for a new constitution and electoral registrations.

They affirmed that their organizations would continue supporting Yemen and help it to overcome its hardships.
This International Women’s Day, we are highlighting the importance of achieving equality for women and girls not simply because it is a matter of fairness and fundamental human rights, but because progress in so many other areas depends on it.

Countries with more gender equality have better economic growth. Companies with more women leaders perform better. Peace agreements that include women are more durable. Parliaments with more women enact more legislation on key social issues such as health, education, anti-discrimination and child support.

The evidence is clear: equality for women means progress for all.

This simple truth must be central as we work to accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals by next year’s deadline and craft an agenda for the years beyond 2015.

Important gains have been made in access to primary education for girls and political representation by women. But progress remains far too slow and uneven.

A baby girl born today will still face inequality and discrimination, no matter where her mother lives. We have a common obligation to ensure her right to live free from the violence that affects one in three women globally; to earn equal pay for equal work; to be free of the discrimination that prevents her from participating in the economy; to have an equal say in the decisions that affect her life; and to decide if and when she will have children, and how many she will have.

I have a message for every girl born today, and to every woman and girl on the planet: Realizing human rights and equality is not a dream, it is a duty of governments, the United Nations and every human being.

I also have a message for my fellow men and boys: play your part. All of us benefit when women and girls -- your mothers, sisters, friends and colleagues -- can reach their full potential.

Together, let us work for women’s rights, empowerment and gender equality as we strive to eliminate poverty and promote sustainable development. Equality for women is progress for all!
Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation Fareed Mujawar returned to Sana'a on Saturday after his participation in meetings of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

He took part in the meetings of the 37th session of the IFAD Governing Council, which was held on 19 - 20 February and the 32nd session of FAO Regional Conference for the Near East held on 24 - 28 February.

Upon his arrival, Mujawar said that he held talks with IFAD officials on the implementation progress of the IFAD-funded projects in Yemen and the ways to accelerate measures to sign the rural development project, which has been discussed and endorsed by the government recently at a cost of $127 million funded by IFAD and other donors.

He said that the FAO Conference discussed many important issues, including the state of food and agriculture in the Near East and North Africa Region, FAO regional water scarcity initiative and reducing food losses and waste in the Near East and North Africa Region.

On the sidelines of the FAO conference, a meeting was held in which the Minister delivered a speech on the situation of Yemen, and its impacts on agriculture, food security and nutrition.
From the Ashes of War, Seeds of Peace

Ban Ki-moon
Not long ago, the West African nation of Sierra Leone was home to the world’s biggest peacekeeping mission. Today, troops from that country are donning blue helmets and serving the UN in other hotspots around the globe. This is just one of the remarkable stories to emerge as the United Nations now winds down the political mission that has operated in the country over the past six years to ensure that the hard-won peace would hold.

Sierra Leone used to be synonymous with brutality. The savage, decade-long war there was marked by appalling atrocities against civilians.

Shocked into action, the world responded by backing a series of United Nations peacekeeping and political missions. In the process, the international community paved the way for breakthroughs that will resonate far beyond Sierra Leone for years to come.

We must give full credit where it is due: the peace I witnessed at the closing ceremony in Freetown this month is first and foremost an accomplishment of the Sierra Leonean people, who showed tremendous resolve to heal and rebuild. The UN is proud to have supported them – and we thank them for proving our value.

Sierra Leone saw many UN “firsts”, hosting the UN’s first multi-dimensional peacekeeping operation with political, security, humanitarian and national recovery mandates. The UN Peacebuilding Commission made its first-ever visit to Sierra Leone. Our final mission there was led by the first senior UN official heading a unified political and development presence.

The United Nations was proud to help set up the Special Court for Sierra Leone – making it the first country in Africa to establish, with UN participation, a tribunal on its own territory to address the most serious international crimes.

When the Special Court closed last year, it was the first of the UN and UN-backed tribunals to successfully complete its mandate. The Special Court’s sentencing of former Liberian President Charles Taylor was the first conviction of a former Head of State since Nuremberg – sending a stern warning that even top leaders must pay for their crimes. Other trials saw first-ever convictions for attacks against UN peacekeepers, forced marriage as a crime against humanity, and the use of child soldiers.

These breakthrough accomplishments added to a solid record of achievements. UN blue helmets disarmed more than 75,000 ex-fighters, including hundreds of child soldiers, and destroyed more than 42,000 weapons and 1.2 million rounds of ammunition. The UN assisted more than half a million Sierra Leonean refugees and internally displaced persons to return home and supported training for thousands of local police.

The UN helped the Government to combat illicit diamond mining that fuelled the conflict, and to establish control over the affected areas. With the UN’s help, Sierra Leone’s citizens voted in successive free and fair elections for the first time in their history.

Since its establishment six years ago as a civilian political mission, the UN Integrated Peacebuilding Office helped Sierra Leone to consolidate progress, addressing tensions that could have caused a relapse into conflict while strengthening institutions and promoting human rights. It helped the Government to bolster the political process, emphasizing dialogue and tolerance, and further strengthened the national police, even supporting the establishment of the first Transnational Organized Crime Unit in West Africa.

Our final mission is departing Sierra Leone but a United Nations country team will remain until long-term development takes root, supporting good governance, quality education, health services and other essential conditions for progress.

Other countries now mired in fighting, divided by hatred and wounded by atrocities, can draw hope from Sierra Leone. Its resilient people have given peacekeeping their greatest possible vote of confidence by sending troops to serve where the UN flag flies today. They understand that national goodwill backed by international support can enable even the most devastated areas to enjoy lasting peace.

Ban Ki-moon
is the Secretary-General of the United Nations
52\textsuperscript{nd} Graduate Study Programme (30 June to 11 July 2014)
Theme: «Empowering youth: how can the United Nations lead the way forward?»

As in previous years, the United Nations Information Service at Geneva will organize a two-week Graduate Study Programme at the Palais des Nations for a group of qualified post graduate students from all over the world. The 52\textsuperscript{nd} Geneva Graduate Study Programme will take place from \textbf{30 June to 11 July 2014}. The theme for this year will be:

«Empowering youth: how can the United Nations lead the way forward?»

\textit{Without urgent measures, we risk creating a “lost generation” of squandered talent and dreams – Ban Ki-moon}

The Programme will examine the role that the United Nations plays or can play in seeking multilateral solutions to global issues, such as those mentioned in this year’s theme. Senior officials and experts of the United Nations and the Geneva-based specialized agencies will give a series of lectures. The lectures will be followed by panel discussions. Participants are expected to attend all the lectures and participate in working groups.

As in the past, we would be most grateful for your assistance in bringing this Programme to the attention of government authorities, universities and institutes of higher education in your region. The application form and detailed information are available on our website: www.unog.ch/gsp\_en for English and www.onug.ch/gsp\_fr for French). Applications as well as the requested documents will have to be submitted on line.

Relevant information on the Graduate Study Programme is also being sent to government authorities through the Permanent Missions and Permanent Observer Offices to the United Nations Office at Geneva.

It is important to inform candidates that the United Nations does not provide assistance towards the travel and living expenses of participants. Please also note that this Programme will be conducted in English and French without interpretation, therefore candidates must have a good knowledge of both languages.
In relation to this year’s International Women’s day, UN Yemen launches a photo competition under the title: “Equality for Women is progress for all.”

In relation to this year’s International Women’s day, UN Yemen launches a photo competition under the title: “Equality for Women is progress for all.” Photos can be submitted though the UN Yemen facebook page where followers will also be invited to vote for their favorite image.

Are you concerned about Women’s issues in Yemen? Do you see challenges facing women around you in your everyday life? Do you see examples of equality for women in your surroundings? Do you have a camera and do you like documenting life though your lens? Then this might be just for you.

Amateur and professional photographers are invited to participate in the competition and upload pictures on facebook. The 50 photos that get most likes will be further evaluated by a jury. The jury will take relevance as well as technical aspects into consideration and select one winner.

The winner of the competition will receive a brand new Sony Handicam, model (DCR-PJ5E) including a memory card, a tripod and a camera case. Participants are encouraged to read the guidelines carefully.

Please submit photos on: www.facebook.com/unitednationsyemen/app_154581087931912

8 March - International Women’s Day: Launch of competition.
22 March: Deadline for uploading photos.
23 March – 31 March: Vote for your favorite picture by liking it.
15 April: Winner of photo competition announced.

Rules and guidelines:
- The picture should be related to the theme of this years’ International Women’s Day: “Equality for Women – Progress for all”, either by displaying challenges facing women in terms of inequality, or showing how equality for women is also progress for all.
- The photographers behind the 50 most liked pictures will be asked to provide:
  1. High resolution quality of the submitted image (As large as possible, MINIMUM 1240x880 pixels),
  2. Written consent from the people photographed (or their guardians if they are under 18 years) if the identity is clearly visible,
  3. Name and age of person/people in photo,
  4. Title of image,
  5. Location of image,
  6. Name, age and where the photographer is from, as well as e-mail address and phone number.
- Based on the 50 most liked photos and the photographers who submit the required additional documentation, a jury will select the best picture.
- The 50 most liked photos submitted will be considered the property of the United Nations. If the UN decides to use the photo as part of any of the work of the UN, credentials will be given to photographer.
- Offensive pictures will be removed.