Training workshop in Hodeida on fishery marketing skills and value addition

9 March 2015

In the presence of the governor of Hodeida, Mr. Hassan Ahmed Al-Hajj, the Project of Up-grading of Seafood Quality Standards, Value addition and Increase of Exports of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Yemen (FAO), represented by Dr. Salah El-Hajj Hassan, the FAO Representative in Yemen, launched on Sunday March 8th 2015, in Hodeida city, a two-day training workshop on marketing and value adding of fish products in Yemen.

The workshop aims to improve the practices of marketing, exporting and value addition for fish products in Yemen through training the participants on modern tools of marketing, exporting, value addition. The participants were nominated by the Genera Fisheries Authority in the Red Sea and they are staff of fish processing plants and governmental staff in the quality control competent authorities in Hodeida, Taiz and Hajja.

The FAO Representative in Yemen, Dr. Salah El-Hajj Hassan highlighted the importance of the workshop in improving the participants' marketing skills which will increase the competitiveness of the Yemeni fish products and boost up revenues of fish exports."

He explained that the FAO activities work on the three-food linked sectors: water, agriculture and the fishery wealth to ensure production sustainability and enhance food security." The project is planned to implement similar workshops in Mukkla and Aden during March of this year targeting staff of fish processing plants and governmental staff of Fish products quality control in the Yemeni fish areas on the Red and the Arabian Sea.

The Deputy Minister of Fishery Wealth, Eng. Ghazi Lahmar, General Manager of the Genera Fisheries Authority in the Red Sea, Eng. Khaled Al-Shamsi, the FAOR assistant, Dr. Mohamed Sallam attended the opening ceremony of the workshop.

OHCHR organizes workshop on Human Rights in Taiz

02/March/2015

The branch of Yemeni Women's Union in Hodaida in cooperation with Ministry of Public Health and Population office has organized a behavior change awareness workshop for HIV/Aids.

The workshop, which is funded by Yamaan Foundation for Health and Social Development through the German Development Bank (KfW) Grant, aims to raise awareness of 15 barbers about AIDS risks and other STDs that could be transmitted through blood and the importance of preventing these diseases.

The workshop also focused on correcting wrong beliefs and misconception of HIV. During the workshop, barbers learned on how to properly sterilize instruments used in shaving.

Dr. Subhia Rajah, chief of Yemeni Women's Union in Hodaida, and Dr. Jamal Badr, BCC Manager at Yamaan foundation, stressed during the workshop on the importance of raising awareness about HIV among barbers and preventing the disease from transferring.
Humanitarian response plan requires US $747.5 mln for 2015: UN
08/March/2015

The United Nations announced on Sunday the launch of the humanitarian response plan for Yemen for 2015 with an amount of US $747.5 million to deliver humanitarian aid to 8.2 million people.

Humanitarian Coordinator in Yemen Johannes Van Der Klaauw said that the latest developments in Yemen confirm the importance of continuing humanitarian aid and expanding its domain to reach millions of vulnerable Yemeni people.

"Despite the political unrest in Yemen, the humanitarian community will continue to work in Yemen at its full capacity and within strong partnerships with local communities and local partners," Klaauw added.

He said that the humanitarian agencies are adhered to continue to deliver emergency humanitarian assistance and to provide protection services for people within the vulnerable groups.

He called on all donors and concerned parties to support such efforts and provide humanitarian response plan for Yemen during the current year.

"Almost 15.9 million people, 61 % of the total population of Yemeni people, are in need for humanitarian assistance. At least 10.6 million people are suffering from food insecurity, half of them are suffering from severe food insecurity, and 13.4 million people are not able to get safe drinking water or adequate sanitation facilities. In addition, 8.4 million people lack for adequate health care services," he said.

"In order to meet the most urgent needs, the international and national partners aim to reach a 8.2 million people in 2015 with a series of lifesaving activities, protection activities and capacity building to bear the crisis," Klaauw said.

He added that the partners are seeking to finance their activities with an amount of $ 747.5 million, including $ 284.6 million(38 per cent) will fund lifesaving programs and the most essential protection, explaining that 5 million people will get food and health services.

Klaauw expressed his confidence that in cooperation with other partners, the response program will achieve the humanitarian objectives in Yemen.

Yemeni people are in need for our assistance, especially now, Humanitarian Coordinator in Yemen said.

Klaauw added that "we are looking forward, including the member states, to grant their generous contributions and expand their assistance for the most vulnerable people in Yemen."

FAO to fund displaced support project in Jawf
17/March/2015

Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) signed a cooperation agreement to implement a project to support the displaced people in Jawf province.

The project, which is implemented by FAO and costs nearly nine million Yemeni rials, aims to improve sources of living income for farmers and displaced in a number of Jawf areas through distributing the improved seeds of wheat and vegetables, fertilizers and agricultural tools, and encouraging livestock breeding.

The agreement was signed by Undersecretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation for Agricultural Services Sector Mohammed al-Gashm and the FAO representative in Yemen Salah al-Hajj Hassan.
Training animal health workers in Al-Jawf

1/March/2015

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Yemen (FAO) signed today a letter of agreement with the Yemen Veterinary Medicine Association to train a group of local residents to be animal health workers in Al-Jawf governorate under the FAO emergency response program on recovering livelihoods of IDPs and host families in the governorate which is financed by the CERF.

25 trainees will be selected from the targeted districts that include: Al-Khalq, Al-Masloob, Al-Matoon, Al-Hazm and Al-Ghyl for 30-day training course. The trainees will learn theoretical knowledge and practical skills on animal health care. At the end of the training course, each trainee will be awarded a certificate authorizes him/her to practice veterinary works in line with the veterinary regulations recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

The training of animal health workers is accompanied by ongoing distribution of large number of sheep to the IDPs and host families in the targeted districts. The sheep feeding supply, veterinary vaccination and treatment services will be also provided to the targeted households after the completion of the animal health workers training.

Dr. Salah Elhajj Hassan, the FAO representative in Yemen who signed the agreement with the Yemen Veterinary Medicine Association stated that "the organization seeks through its programs in Yemen to assist most vulnerable groups in a way that enables them to sustainably recover their livelihoods and enhance food production."

He added that "The FAO provided a complete package of agricultural inputs with training and that the agreement that was signed today will allow the targeted households to access animal health care in scientific and safe way that increases production and raise nutrition status of their households' members."

It is worth mentioning that the FAO implements the Emergency Response Program in Al-Jawf in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and the local stakeholders in the governorate to alleviate severe food insecurity through supporting agricultural livelihoods and production capacity.

Yemen, UNHCR sign MoU on health services for refugees

1 March 2015

The Ministry of Public Health and Population and the UNHCR signed on Wednesday a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to provide health services for refugees and asylum seekers in Yemen.

Under the MoU, the refugees and asylum seekers will get preventive and curative services and health support and will benefit from the health programs given by the ministry for AIDS patients.

The memo obligates the health ministry and its offices in the Capital Sana'a and in the provinces of Aden, Lahj and Hadramout to provide health services for refugees for three years.

The MoU was signed by the Ministry's Undersecretary for Curative Medicine Sector Dr. Ghazi Ismail and the UNHCR resident representative in Yemen Johannes Van Der Klaauw.
ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY, PICTURE THIS: 
A WOMAN ON TOP OF THE WORLD

Statement from Ertharin Cousin, Executive Director of the UN World Food Programme

8/March/2015

Picture it -- a Nepali schoolgirl on the top of Mount Everest. At primary school, where she received WFP school meals, Nimdoma used to dream of doing extraordinary things. She made her dream come true and didn’t stop at Everest, which she conquered when she was 17 years old. Nimdoma, a wonderful example of women’s empowerment, went on to climb the highest mountain on every continent with a Nepali, all-woman, climbing team.

On International Women’s Day (March 8) this year, I want to pay tribute to the girls and women who dream big. Empowering women empowers humanity. At the World Food Programme, we believe that women and girls who are empowered will lead to our ultimate goal, a world with zero hunger. Women and their work – paid and unpaid -- are central to the production, preparation and provision of food, so are essential to food and nutrition security.

While every March 8 we celebrate the many images of women, there is another picture that comes to mind, of women’s hunger and deprivation. A WFP gender assessment of one of the poorest countries in the world in 2014 found women had half the time that men had to rest in the course of a day. At 7am, when men woke up to have their breakfast, women had already worked for two hours to prepare the food, fetch water and get the children washed and they also went to bed later.

We will only achieve a zero hunger world when women, girls, men and boys have equal opportunities, equal access to resources, and a regular voice in the decisions that shape their world. Picture the future.
Yemen celebrates World Water Day

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) organized on Saturday in Sana'a governorate an awareness festival celebrating the World Water Day, March 22.

The festival was organized within the FAO-Sana'a Basin Project, which is funded by the government of the Netherlands, and in collaboration with the National Water Resources Authority (NWRA), the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and the Water User Associations (WUAs), under the theme of "Water and Sustainable Development".

The United Nations (UN) circulated the theme for 2015 water day to highlight the importance of the water for sustainable development and the role of the water resources in poverty reduction, economic growth, and environmental sustainability, said a statement issued by the FAO.

"The water contributes into the social welfare and economic growth for billions of people as it is a source of food security and energy and a key element for the human health and the environment."

The festival which took place in al-Jawza village- Wadi al-Ajbar of Sanhan district- was initiated with one-minute silence, mourning the death of Sana'a-attack victims who were killed last Friday and praying for the injured people to recover soon.

Wadi Al-Ajbar was selected for the World Water Day celebration of this year because of its historic symbolism for Yemen's ancient civilizations that were based exclusively on agriculture which correlated water harvesting techniques and water resources management, said Ali al-Suraimi, the NWRA head in his speech. "These civilizations included the two kingdoms of 1st and 2nd Aad, the two kingdoms of 1st and 2nd Sheba and the kingdom of Himyar."

Al-Suraimi thanked the FAO and the Dutch government for supporting Yemen's water sector to enhance water resources management. He reviewed Yemen's old history known as agriculture-based civilizations and its indigenous water irrigation techniques.

"Yemenis in the past used to avoid constructions in arable lands and soil resources sites," he said, expressing his regret over the demolition of this behavior among today's generation amidst growing construction in urban areas against the agriculture activity.

For his part, Salah El-Hajj, the FAO representative in Yemen, hailed the support provided by the Netherlands in funding the FAO-Sana'a Basin project which aims to reduce underground water abstraction by motivating farmers to adopt crop systems of greater production and income and less water consumption.

The FAO will stand supportive for farmers and the national related stakeholders, El-Hajj said, calling on farmers and water and agriculture institutions to revive Yemen's old legacy in water management to form mutual responsibility towards water poverty that threatens Yemen's food security.

The attendees enjoyed several popular dances, poetry and sketches that were performed during the festival to generate social awareness on the dangers of the water depletion and the need to save the water resources for the sake of next generations. Advocacy and awareness flyers on water resources and agricultural production were also distributed to increase food domestic production and reduce imports.
UNDP champions community radio to promote culture of employability and entrepreneurship for youth in the central and southern governorates

17 Mar 2015

Aden, UNDP is supporting a community-based business radio show on Lana Radio, airing for Yemeni youth in Aden and neighbouring governorates. In partnership with 21 Century Forum and Lana Radio, UNDP launched today in Aden its first public event on economic and employment-related topics, bringing listeners and journalists together for unique opportunities to exchange. The first event was attended by over 100 youth, in addition to representatives from UNDP, NGOs and journalists in Khormaksar. Eleven gatherings, focusing on employability and entrepreneurship, will be moderated by trained journalists of Lana Radio to further stimulate the interest of youth in these important themes, as the business radio programme becomes more popular.

“We are inspired and benefited from the information presented today on how to select a good field of work according to my interests and job prospects I like that the speaker has told us about the psychometric tests available online and resources that help us to identify the strengths and weaknesses of our characters. I recommend to repeat it again and to share the experience of successful people,” says Sedeeq Mohammed, 22, one of the youth attendees.

The events within the initiative started with the business radio programme (“Turning Point”) aired on Lana Radio since December 2014 which has been targeting over 750,000 listeners. These public gatherings will reach out to over 6,000 youth in Aden, Lahej, Dhale, Abyan and Ibb and parts of Taiz governorates.

“UNDP aims to instill the culture of entrepreneurship as a general public mindset, to complement our concrete activities supporting employment and the economy,” said Mr. Sylvain Merlen, the Head of the UNDP Sub-office in Aden.

The events will host experts to provide insights and interact with the public. Success stories will be presented and available opportunities in addition to useful resources for further information will be shared to the audience for greater learning impact.

“Media can be a powerful tool to improve people's lives. Yemen suffers from a high rate of illiteracy, so we utilise radio to reach all people,” said Nadia al-Saqqaf, the chairwoman of 21 Century Forum, UNDP’s partner.

This initiative is implemented through UNDP’s Youth Economic Empowerment Programme, operational across nine governorates in Yemen, which aims at promoting self-reliance for Yemeni youth through unleashing their entrepreneurship and employability potential.
APPLICATIONS INVITED FOR UNITED NATIONS
JOURNALISM FELLOWSHIPS

The Dag Hammarskjöld Fund for Journalists is now accepting applications from professional journalists from developing countries for its 2015 fellowship program.

The fellowships are available to radio, television, print and web journalists, age 25 to 35, from developing countries who are interested in coming to New York to report on international affairs during the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly. The fellowships will begin in early September and extend to late November and will include the cost of travel and accommodations in New York, as well as a per diem allowance.

The fellowship program is open to journalists who are native to one of the developing countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America/the Caribbean and are currently working for media organizations. Applicants must demonstrate an interest in and commitment to international affairs and to conveying a better understanding of the United Nations to their readers and audiences. They must also have approval from their media organizations to spend up to three months in New York to report from the United Nations.

In an effort to rotate recipient countries, the Fund will not consider journalist applications for 2015 from nations selected in 2014: Nigeria, Tunisia, the Philippines and Vietnam. Journalists from these countries may apply in 2016.

Four journalists are selected each year after a review of all applications. The journalists who are awarded fellowships are given the incomparable opportunity to observe international diplomatic deliberations at the United Nations, to make professional contacts that will serve them for years to come, to interact with seasoned journalists from around the world, and to gain a broader perspective and understanding of matters of global concern. Many past fellows have risen to prominence in their professional and countries. The program is not intended to provide basic skills training to journalists; all participants are media professionals.

Full fellowship eligibility criteria and documentation requirements as well as the fellowship application form can be found on the Fund’s web site at www.unjournalismfellowship.org

Questions about the program, eligibility and application process can be directed by email to fellowship2015@unjournalismfellowship.org.
Twenty years ago, when the world convened a landmark conference on women’s human rights, the devastating conflict in the former Yugoslavia prompted deserved attention to rape and other war crimes there against civilians. Two decades later, with girls as young as seven not only targeted but used as weapons by violent extremists, it would be easy to lose heart about the value of international gatherings. But while we have a long way to go to achieve full equality – with ending gender-based violence a central goal – progress over the past two decades has proven the enduring value of the 1995 Beijing Conference on Women.

Since the adoption of its Declaration and Platform for Action, more girls have attained more access to more education than ever before. The number of women dying in childbirth has been almost halved. More women are leading businesses, governments and global organizations. I welcome these advances. At the same time, on this International Women’s Day, we must acknowledge that the gains have been too slow and uneven, and that we must do far more to accelerate progress everywhere.

The world must come together in response to the targeting of women and girls by violent extremists. From Nigeria and Somalia to Syria and Iraq, the bodies of women have been transformed into battlegrounds for warriors carrying out specific and systematic strategies, often on the basis of ethnicity or religion. Women have been attacked for trying to exercise their right to education and basic services; they have been raped and turned into sex slaves; they have been given as prizes to fighters, or traded among extremist groups in trafficking networks. Doctors, nurses and others have been assassinated for trying to operate in their professional capacity. The women human rights defenders brave enough to challenge such atrocities risk – and sometimes lose – their lives for the cause.

We must take a clear global stance against this total assault on women’s human rights. The international community needs to translate its outrage into meaningful action, including humanitarian aid, psycho-social services, support for livelihoods, and efforts to bring perpetrators to justice. With women and girls often the first targets of attack, their rights must be at the centre of our strategy to address this staggering and growing challenge. Empowered women and girls are the best hope for sustainable development following conflict. They are the best drivers of growth, the best hope for reconciliation, and the best buffer against radicalization of youth and the repetition of cycles of violence.

Even in societies at peace, too many girls and women are still targets of domestic abuse, female genital mutilation and other forms of violence that traumatize individuals and damage whole societies. Discrimination remains a thick barrier that must be shattered. We need to expand opportunities in politics, business and beyond. We need to change mind-sets, especially among men, and engage men in becoming active change-agents themselves. And we must back up our resolve with resources based on the sure understanding that investments in gender equality generate economic progress, social and political inclusion and other benefits that, in turn, foster stability and human dignity.

This is a vital year for advancing the cause of women’s human rights. The international community is hard at work on establishing a new sustainable development agenda that will build on the Millennium Development Goals and shape policies and social investments for the next generation.