



UNDP YEMEN IN HODEIDAH

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Recognizing Hodeidah as critical to the delivery of food and humanitarian assistance, Yemeni parties have agreed on the need for peace in the area.

The Stockholm Agreement, brokered by the United Nations Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen in December 2018, is seen as a foundation on which to restore peace and rebuild lives.

The agreement refers explicitly to activities that are within the mandate of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) – such as mine clearance, support to local security forces and to the Hodeidah port.

To support these activities, UNDP has established an office in Hodeidah. Staffed with national and international specialists, this office is poised to expand the activities that UNDP is already implementing across Yemen – rebuilding infrastructure, restoring services, creating employment opportunities, and strengthening governance and communities – and bring them into Hodeidah.

In addition, UNDP has launched a Peace Support Facility – entirely dedicated to new initiatives that can contribute to the peace process, and deliver tangible improvements in the everyday lives of Yemeni people.



REDUCING DANGER

UNDP works with the Yemen Executive Mine Action Center (YEMAC) to clear explosives, conduct land surveys and focus efforts in places where the impact and need is greatest.

A total of 1,000 YEMAC personnel have been trained and are now active, throughout the country. To date, over 6.6 million m² of land have been cleared, including the removal of over 125,000 explosive remnants. This means that people are now returning to market and mosque areas where, previously, it was not safe to go.

In Hodeidah, UNDP will deploy an international Mine Action Specialist to support YEMAC in land mine clearance, and sea mines clearance of the naval routes to the ports in Hodeidah, Salif and Ras Issa.



REBUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE

Rebuilding physical infrastructure facilitates access to critical health services; enables children to go to school; prevents the spread of diseases such as cholera; and helps strengthen food security while also laying the foundation for future economic growth.

Through the Peace Support Facility, UNDP could provide support to the rehabilitation of important roads between Hodeidah and Sana'a; critical power stations; and facilities such as schools and health centers – all essential to the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

Because UNDP works through local private contractors to create local employment, rebuilding infrastructure in Hodeidah would create many job opportunities for both skilled and unskilled workers, boost local businesses and the construction sector, and ultimately stimulate the economy in Hodeidah and surrounding areas.

FACILITATING ASSISTANCE

Hodeidah port is the main entry point for humanitarian assistance, including food, medication and other emergency supplies. Through the Peace Support Facility, UNDP will support the Red Sea Ports Corporation to restore security, operational capacity and functionality of the port – facilitating the swift movement of goods from the port to the people who need them most.

In fact, 70 per cent of Yemen's imports are received at the port of Hodeidah so, in the long term, a functional port could generate national revenue to pay salaries and improve the economic environment, in general.





CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND INCOME

Since 2015, UNDP has remunerated almost three million Yemenis for their participation in rehabilitating schools, roads, water delivery systems and other community infrastructure, across the country. Some have been trained to work in schools and health facilities, or to provide their communities with valuable advice on nutrition, cholera prevention and conflict resolution. To date, an approximate US\$143 million has been provided directly to participants – in cash – enabling them to provide their families with food and other necessities while, at the same time, improving the quality of life enjoyed by entire communities.

In Hodeidah, UNDP could support the development of small businesses to improve household incomes, and stimulate the local market economy. Market assessments would be conducted to identify the most profitable and highly-demanded services and sectors – such as the delivery of potable water and access to solar power.

As a kick-off activity during the in the holy month of Ramadan, UNDP and the Social Development Fund and the District Cleaning Fund will organize a street-clean up, providing cash-for-work opportunities for roughly 4,000 citizens in the Mina, Hali and Hawak districts.

GENERATING POWER

The demand for reliable energy is high and increasing in every part of Yemen. Because Yemen enjoys more than 300 days of sunlight every year, solar energy is a sustainable, low-cost alternative. It also mitigates the negative environmental impact of fuel-dependency and heavy use of wood, charcoal and kerosene.

In Hodeidah, solar energy could be used to help restore health, education, water and sanitation infrastructure; strengthen food security; and facilitate economic activity.





STRENGTHENING LOCAL GOVERNANCE & COMMUNITY

With a view to strengthen communities, UNDP engages Yemenis to work together to overcome challenges and achieve common goals. School teachers and principals are being trained to support psycho-social support to students suffering from trauma; individuals are learning how to mediate disputes and resolve conflicts; and gender-balanced Village Cooperative Councils are coordinating projects that both involve and benefit their communities as a whole.

These coordinated efforts have resulted in better roads, water collection and delivery systems, and emergency health facilities in communities throughout the country – and could be extended to Hodeidah. According to the priorities expressed by the communities it serves, UNDP could support locally-elected councils, civil society organizations, neighborhood committees and social figures.

RESTORING JUSTICE & SECURITY

Drawing on national and international expertise, UNDP has helped to improve police efficiency; access to justice; and the conditions for people in detention and prisons – particularly women and juveniles.

In Hodeidah, UNDP could provide support to police officers; the Coast Guard; the Immigration and Passport Authority; and criminal and investigative services. Support could include improvements to infrastructure; training of personnel in human rights and international standards; access to legal aid and pro-bono services; and strengthening state prosecution. Recently, UNDP provided 7,000 mattresses to correctional facilities in Hodeidah and other cities, to improve the living conditions for detainees and prisoners and to prevent the spread of Scabies and other diseases.

At the community level, UNDP could facilitate community-owned and driven security and access to justice plans. This would enable communities to identify priority issues and conceive of ways to address them – either independently or in coordination with state security and justice service providers.

