



Training on Promotion of Refugee Law, Human Rights Completed by UNHCR

Intensive training course has been conducted to a selected group from Law faculty graduate of Sana'a University. Four UNHCR officials at B.O participated in conducting the above training. The beneficiaries have undergone an exam by the end of the training whereby the results to be issued and graduation ceremony is to be held during September.

A Sub-Regional Workshop Discusses Role of Religious Leaders in HIV/AIDS Prevention



On Tuesday, a sub-regional workshop in Sana'a was concluded that brought together 44 distinguished religious leaders from Yemen, Somalia, Djibouti and Sudan to discuss ways to enhance the role of religious leaders in HIV/AIDS prevention. The workshop capitalizes on the work of the previous regional meeting for religious leaders in Cairo in December 2004 which reviewed the first draft of the Guide. The Guide was designed to assist religious leaders from across the region in contributing more effectively to the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Editorial

The month of September has witnessed high level events. On the international level, the World Summit was held in New York during the period 14-16 and attended by more than 170 Heads of states, where a number of important issues were discussed.

On the local level, the people and government of Yemen have celebrated the annual anniversary of the national day 26 September. With those 2 occasions, the Yemeni media is still involved up to date in covering a large number of articles and news dedicated to those 2 issues that have high priority ..To be continued



UNDP in Cooperation with UNIC Launch MDG Advocacy Video and Posters 4 Sept. 2005.

Under the patronage of Her Excellency Amatel-Aleem Al-Susowa, Minister of Human Rights, UNDP in cooperation with UNIC Sana'a organized a launching ceremony on the documentary film and posters of the MDGs. The one-day event which took place 4th September 2005, was attracted by large number of participants from Government officials, media establishments and journalists. The launching was started by reciting verses from Holy Quran, followed by a speech of Ms. Dena Assaf, UNDP Deputy Representative, who has welcomed the participants for attending this important event. Ms. Assaf has indicated that the documentary film should reflect the national efforts aiming to achieve the goals by the year 2015. ..To be continued

World Development Report 2006: Equity and Development

Inequalities in incomes, in health, and in educational outcomes have long been a stark fact of life in many developing countries. When such inequalities in outcomes arise from unequal opportunities, there are both intrinsic and instrumental grounds for concern. Because inequalities in opportunity are often accompanied by profound differences in influence, power, and social status - whether at the level of individuals or groups - they have ..To be continued

Yemeni Representative to the UN Delivers A Statement in the 60th Session of GA

H.E. Ambassador Abdulla Alsaïdi, Yemeni Representative to the UN, participated in the General Assembly Session, which was held in New York in 22 September 2005. In his statement, Mr. Al-Saïdi has supported the Saudi suggestion calling for establishing an International Center for the Fight against Terrorism. On the other hand, Mr. Alsaïdi has warned of the widening gap of the poverty phenomenon, indicating that poverty is a time bomb against peace and security.



Interview with UNICEF Representative Mr. Ramesh Shrestha

Q1: Could you tell us about the main objectives of your esteemed organization in Yemen?

UNICEF is the driving force that helps build a world where the rights of every child are realized. UNICEF was created after the Second World War with the belief that nurturing and caring for children are the cornerstones of human progress. The purpose of the organization is to work with others to overcome the obstacles that poverty, violence, disease and discrimination place in a child's path.

We advocate for measures to give children the best start in life, because proper care at the youngest age forms the strongest foundation for a person's future.

We promote girls' education – ensuring that they complete primary education as a minimum – because it benefits all children, both girls and boys. Girls who are educated grow up to become better thinkers, better citizens, and better parents to their own children.

We collaborate closely with Government and civil society to make sure that all children are immunized against common childhood diseases, and are well nourished, because it is wrong for a child to suffer or die from a preventable illness.

We assist efforts to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS among young people because it is right to keep them from harm and enable them to protect others. We involve everyone

in creating protective environments for children. Within the limits of resources that are available we do our best to be present wherever children are threatened, because no child should be exposed to violence, abuse or exploitation.

We work to assure equality for those who are discriminated against, girls and women in particular.

In summary UNICEF's main aim in Yemen, like in other countries of the world, is to promote child health, growth, development, protection and participation.



Q2: We were informed about the polio campaign which UNICEF took part along with other UN agencies recently. Did the campaign succeed to increase awareness among the society? Is this the last phase of the campaign or another campaign to be launched in the future to prevent the spread of this disease among the children?

Since the beginning of 2005 four national campaigns of polio vaccination were conducted by the Ministry of Public Health and Population. The technical

and financial support from WHO was instrumental in the organization of the campaigns. UNICEF played an equally important role by providing the vaccines to be administered to the children and supporting social mobilization activities to achieve full participation of the population to the campaigns.

The level of coverage achieved by the vaccination campaigns, i.e more than 96% in July 2005 according to WHO independent observers, is a good indicator of the high level of awareness achieved in the population. Of course there remain pockets of communities with lower coverage which need to be targeted in the next rounds. The overall picture is very encouraging.

Before the end of the year two other rounds of vaccination will take place, end September and in November, and several rounds of vaccination are still foreseen in 2006. The same level of participation is expected to be achieved. Social mobilization activities will continue to sustain the level of awareness on the risks faced by children because of the circulation of the wild polio virus in Yemen. The need

for *all children under five years* to be given polio vaccine during these national immunization days will continued to be stressed. More importantly, the population needs to know that to avoid any other outbreak of vaccine preventable disease like polio, all newborn children must be fully and timely vaccinated during their first year of life, according to the national vaccination schedule.

Q3: As you are aware that the World Summit will be held during the next 2 days in New York, where more than 170 Presidents and leaders all over the world will meet to discuss issues such as human rights, security, UN reform..etc. Do you think that the summit agenda will discuss issues related to the mandate of UNICEF?

And are you optimistic of the recommendations, the member states will come out with in the Summit?

The UN after sixty years certainly needs a new agenda as the world today is very different from the world sixty years ago. This World Summit is the biggest gathering of Heads of States to discuss the role of UN system. The decisions taken in this summit will influence and impact the work of all UN agencies. We believe that the recommendations of this summit will greatly influence on the overall agenda of the UN system such as poverty reduction, achieving millennium goals and the security.

Q4: How do you evaluate the relationship between your organization and the Yemeni Government?

We are happy to say that UNICEF has very good relationship with the government of Yemen. We receive full cooperation in all our projects. Our current work plan is based on the Master Plan of Operation covering the period 2002 – 2006 which was signed between UNICEF and the Government of Yemen in 2001. Our main partners include ministry of public health and population, ministry of social affairs and labour, ministry of education, ministry of justice, ministry of interior, ministry of human rights.

Q5: What is the future's plans and activities of UNICEF?

We are already thinking of our next five year programme to cover the period 2007-11. We will collaborate with other UNDG partners (UNDP, WFP and UNFPA) in developing our next five year programme to improve coordination and collaboration. UNICEF will continue to provide its support in its traditional areas such as basic education, primary health care, child protection and water & sanitation. But we will be exploring



new areas and new ways of programme implementation to be more effective and more efficient in our operations.

Q6: Any comments?

Yemen has one of the fastest growing populations. The demand for basic services such as basic education, basic health care, safe water supply and other infrastructure will continue to rise. This will necessitate a much closer collaboration between the government and various development partners to address this huge demand. We will also need to be more efficient and transparent in resource allocation and resource management. We consider human resource development to be the top priority for Yemen to meet the future challenges. We all need to do more in this field.

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UNDP in Cooperation with

UNIC Her Excellency Ms. Amatel-Aleem Al-Susowa, Minister of Human Rights, has expressed of her happiness to participate in the advocacy campaign of the Millenium Development Goals which has stressed that the media should play a key role in enhancing the development process and creating positive change.

World Development Report

a tendency to persist. And because it leads to an inefficient use of resources and to less effective institutions, inequity is inimical to long-term development. It follows that there is a legitimate role for

public action in the promotion of fairness and in the pursuit of equity, provided such action is cognizant of the primacy of individual freedoms, and of the role of markets in allocating resources. World Development Report 2006 presents evidence on the inequality of opportunity, within and across countries, and illustrates the mechanisms through which it impairs development. The Report advocates taking explicit account of equity in determining development priorities: public action should aim to expand the opportunities of those who, in the absence of policy interventions, have the least resources, voice, and capabilities. Domestically, it makes the case for investing in people, expanding access to justice, land, and infrastructure, and promoting fairness in markets. Internationally, the Report considers the functioning of global markets and the rules that govern them, as well as the complementary provision of aid to help poor countries and poor people build greater endowments. Drawing on the World Bank's 60 years of development experience, the World Development Report 2006 is essential reading for understanding how greater equity can reduce poverty, enhance economic growth, advance development, and deliver increased opportunities to the poorest groups in our societies.

Editorial

locally and internationally.

Before concluding I would like on behalf of my colleagues in the UN system, to take this opportunity to congratulate the people and government of Yemen on the occasion of the 42nd anniversary of the Yemeni revolution.. .

