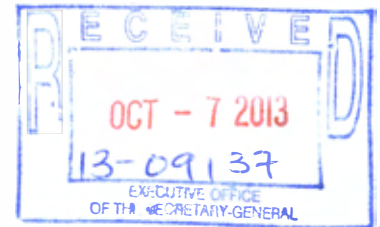


Yemen  
Update, Tuesday  
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Note to the Secretary-General

Mission to Yemen  
10-13 September 2013



USA, Amice reports on her joint visit with WFP ED Cousin.

04/10/13

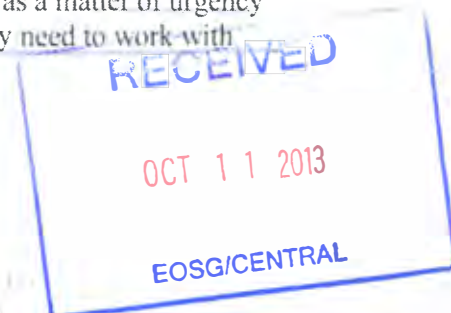
1. I visited Yemen on 10-13 September with the Executive Director of WFP, Ms. Ertharin Cousin. The visit was an opportunity to keep the humanitarian crisis in Yemen high on the agenda and to look at ways to strengthen support for the humanitarian response and to better integrate humanitarian and development work in the country.

2. More than half of the country's 25 million people need some form of humanitarian assistance. One million children are acutely malnourished and, at 58 per cent, the rate of chronic malnutrition in Yemen is the second highest in the world, surpassed only by Afghanistan. Chronic poverty, economic stagnation leading to high levels of unemployment, significant refugee flows and a lack of availability of basic services are at the core of the complex set of challenges facing Yemen. During our meetings we stressed the importance of forging stronger links between relief, recovery and development efforts to strengthen the resilience of Yemeni communities and encouraged donors to fund resilience building programmes. Yemen's humanitarian crisis stems from years of underinvestment, poverty and insecurity. Our one-year humanitarian response plans do not capture the integrated nature of the response required and are unsustainable and for this reason the humanitarian community will now develop plans covering a 2-3 year period.

3. The visit took place less than a week before the expected conclusion of the National Dialogue, and many of our interlocutors were concerned about the impact of its outcome in securing greater access in contested areas. The Government of National Unity is weak and fragmented, and despite the stated commitment of the President, who said that poverty is the number one challenge facing Yemen today, he and his Government have been unable to tackle the country's significant humanitarian and development challenges.

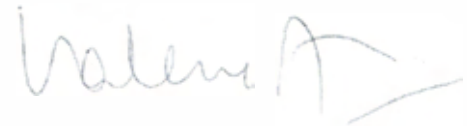
4. In addition to the funding shortages, a key challenge to the humanitarian response in Yemen is insecurity and the absence of state authority in many parts of the country. Without government-enforced rule of law, humanitarian access is limited. In Abyan, popular committees have sprung up to fill the security vacuum. In the north, we need to strengthen collaboration with the Al-Houthis to enable humanitarian partners to deliver aid in an independent and impartial manner. I discussed this during a meeting with Al-Houthi representatives, and proposed joint assessments and a follow-up meeting between the Al-Houthi leader Abdul Malik and the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator.

5. In the north of the country, humanitarian partners also face difficulties meeting the needs of people displaced by the conflict in Sa'ada, and stranded Ethiopian migrants and Yemeni migrant workers deported from Saudi Arabia. We visited the northern governorates of Al Hudaydah and Hajjah and saw the appalling conditions of the migrants. Many dehydrated having walked miles from the Saudi border in scorching heat with nothing to eat or drink. National and local Government officials highlighted the challenges presented by the new Saudi foreign labour legislation and its impact on Yemenis, many of whom are picked up in the streets of Saudi Arabia and returned to Yemen with nothing. The Yemeni Government recognizes that it needs to deal with this issue as a matter of urgency but have been unable to make progress with the Saudi authorities. In addition they need to work with the Ethiopian Government to facilitate the return of illegal Ethiopian migrants.



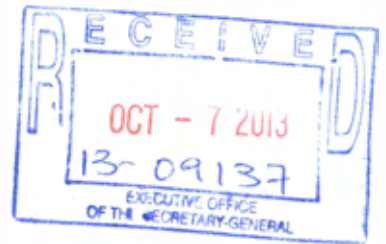
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6. The implementation capacity of the humanitarian community has been strengthened in Yemen and there is a common understanding among humanitarian partners, donors and the Government of the need to work together to address the complex challenges. The UN team is working well together and Gulf organizations have also increased their humanitarian activities in the country. However, as in many other countries, support from the Gulf is mainly through bilateral programmes and we will continue our efforts to persuade the Gulf States that support for multilateral efforts will maximize the impact of **their** assistance.



Valerie Amos  
4 October 2013

Cc: Mr. Eliasson  
Mr. Benomar  
Ms. Chan  
Ms. Cheng-Hopkins  
Ms. Clark  
Ms. Cousin  
Mr. Feltman  
Mr. Guterres  
Mr. Kennedy  
Mr. Lake



**Note to the Deputy Secretary-General**

**Mission to Yemen 10-13 September**

Please find attached a note to the Secretary-General on my mission to Yemen between 10 and 13 September.

I would appreciate if you could kindly submit this to the Secretary-General.

Valerie Amos  
4 October 2013