



Yemen National Dialogue
and Constitutional Reform
Trust Fund (YNDCRTF)



PROJECT¹ QUARTERLY PROGRESS UPDATE

(for posting on the YNDCRTF web site)

as of 30 September 2013

Participating UN or Non-UN Organization:	OSASG (Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Yemen) UNDP UNHCR UNICEF UNOPS UNFPA OHCHR UNWOMEN				
Implementing Partner(s):	National Dialogue Secretariat (NDS)				
Project Number:	00085672				
Project Title:	UN Integrated Program of support to the Yemeni National Dialogue and Constitutional process				
Total Approved Project Budget:	US\$ 23.1 Million				
Total Transferred Money:	US\$ 11,782,000				
Location:	Country wide				
SC Approval Date:	24 January 2013				
Project Duration:	12 Months	Starting Date:	1 Jan 2013	Completion Date:	31 Jan 2014
Funds Committed:	USD 9,573,159			Percentage Approved:	of 81.0%
Funds Disbursed:	USD 9,288,445			Percentage Approved:	of 79 %
Expected Project Duration:	12 months	Forecast Final Date:	31 Jan 2014	Delay (Months):	0

Outcomes:	Achievements/Results:	Percentage of planned:
Outcome 1: “Implementation of the Agreement moves forward according to agreed timelines and steps, on the basis of quality technical, financial and administrative support”		
<p>1.1 The National Dialogue and Constitutional process are provided with technical and political support, including lessons learned and comparative analysis and mediation / facilitation assistance when requested</p>	<p>The NDS with support from OSASG and UNOPS provided operational and technical support to the National Dialogue Conference (NDC) with support from international experts. The main activities implemented include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The SA facilitated the 8+8 sub-committee which was formulated during this quarter to hold focused north-south discussions to resolve topics related to the southern issue. UN consultants provided technical support and inputs to enrich the deliberations and shed light on new entry points to approach deadlocks. Such assistance included formulation of some working papers and presentations on experiences of federalism and transition in similar contexts/countries. 2. 30 national facilitators continued to facilitate the working groups work to ensure proper functioning of the working groups and progress in their working plans. The International mediation advisor from UNHQ continued to provide support to ensure coherence in expert advice provided and coordinate with the Secretariat and other experts and support actors. 3. 17 international experts on media, constitutional systems and process and federalism continued to be deployed to support working groups. Experts also supported the Consensus Committee and initiatives with targeted constituencies including civil society. The International consultants’ coordinator continued to manage the technical support needed and coordinate the international consultants support. Hundreds of national experts and consultant were made available by the NDS to the working groups and consensus committee through INGOs, World Bank, embassies and UN organizations. The consultations covered various subjects and sectors such as state structure, overall fiscal architecture, natural resource sharing and worked with different working groups like the state building, development and good governance. In addition the NDS worked on producing an analytical report of the visions submitted by the different components on the southern issue. 4. The three interpreters continued to provide interpretation for the working groups, consultants and as needed for the NDC. In addition to other interpretation and translation services were provided through service providing companies. 5. Background papers and information sheets were developed in order to respond to and reflect the evolving needs of the working groups. Those working papers were developed by the various consultants who were deployed to assist and support the working groups. <p>The NDS coordinated for developing a number of specialized working papers as a response to the needs and requests of the working groups. These working papers were prepared by government bodies, civil society organizations, national experts and researches.</p>	<p>100% achieved planned for the period of reporting</p> <p>65% achieved for the project</p>
<p>1.2 Well resourced secretariats provide the administrative, logistical and technical support to the National Dialogue and</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 125 staff continued working for the NDS with UNOPS providing HR management and support. 2. Comprehensive planning, communications and logistics support for the NDS team was provided for the mid-term plenary sessions and 2nd round of working groups. UNOPS continued to provide operational support 	

<p>Constitutional process structures, including Preparatory Committee, National Dialogue Committee, and Constitutional Commission</p>	<p>which included contractual services of office location set up, security arrangements, travel of delegates, transport of volunteers, preparation of conference venue, and organisation of media coverage translation / interpretation¹.</p>	
<p>1.3 International assistance to the National Dialogue and the Constitutional process is well coordinated, with limited transaction costs for national actors and efficient allocation of resources</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Special Adviser chaired two coordination meetings for international counterparts in order provide updates on the progress of the NDC and to discuss mechanisms of international support for the process and strategic planning for the constitution-making process. The NDS received a number of international delegations such as the British Ambassador. A number of delegations from different embassies visited the NDC working groups and the NDS arranged a number of meetings for them with presidium and the Consensus Committee. The NDS ensured access for international observers from various embassies, donors, INGOs and international partners who attended a number of working groups sessions and the 2nd plenary sessions. 2. Through OSASG and NDS several fundraising meetings with member state representatives were conducted to mobilize additional funds for the expected costs of the constitutional drafting phase 3. One UN NDC coordination meeting was held and chaired by OSASG and one YNDCRTF Steering committee meeting also took place in this quarter. 	
<p>Outcome 2: “The outcome of the Implementation of the Transition Agreement reflects an inclusive, transparent, meaningful and participatory process.”</p>		
<p>2.5 The population is aware of the existence and inclusivity of the national dialogue and constitutional process through the implementation of the secretariats' public information campaigns Note: exact content, timing and sequencing of proposed activities pending development and finalisation by NDS of public information campaigns</p>	<p>The NDS with support from OSASG and UNOPS implemented significant aspects of its comprehensive communication and media strategy developed by NDS Media Department & Public Participation Unit with support from international expert, OSASG and UNOPS. The main activities implemented includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Traditional media: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ TV: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Over 120 hours of live broadcasting in 5 national TV and at least one regional news channel (Aljazeera Mubasher). The number decreased comparing to the 2nd quarter because of the delay in the final plenary. - Several TV channels dedicated daily and weekly programmes on NDC resumed after Ramadan. - 76 TV flashes about 2nd plenary outcomes were produced by NDS and broadcast by the main local channels. - A news ticker reflecting the main outcomes of the 2nd plenary was produced by the NDS and aired by Yemen TV and Aden TV. - Launch of new TV campaign targeting audiences in the South using 3 flashes produced by NDS in collaboration with Southern CSOs. - More than 450 TV interviews facilitated by Media Centre and conducted in its facility. - 6 “Dialogue Iftar” talk shows broadcast live by Aljazeera Mubasher. The 45 minutes programmes hosted 6 Working groups and tackled issues related to Yemen identity and place of Sharia in legislation. - Daily TV competition show around NDC issues was produced and 	

aired by Yemen TV during Ramadan.

- **Radio:**

- Around 50 hours of live broadcast in Sana'a and Aden radios.
- Dozens of hours of NDC dedicated programming in 14 national and local radios.
- More than 80 civic education flashes were produced by Yemeni national and local radios under the supervision of NDS communications team. The flashes were broadcast in local and regional dialects around the NDC issues.
- 100 radio flashes about 2nd plenary outcome were produced in different Yemeni dialects and broadcast by 14 national and local radio stations.
- Daily civic education programmes were broadcasted throughout Ramdan and Eid period by 14 national and local radio stations making 420 episodes
- Two competition programmes around NDC issues were broadcasted by Sana'a and Yemen FM radios.

- **Print & Online media:**

- Main national newspapers and news website (total 102) continue to ensure daily coverage of NDC activities.
- Two print campaign launched. The first one in July aimed at promoting the 2nd plenary outcomes, the second one was on September to engaging the public around mitigating the prolongation of NDC debate and emphasizing the significance of the peaceful transition and overall gains of the NDC.
- NDS communication department in partnership with the official news agency Sabanews, delivered daily news updates to all newspapers and news websites on the progress of Working Groups and plenaries.
- A mailing list of over 1000 journalists and media outlets, inside and outside Yemen, is served with news and daily updates on a regular basis.

- **Outdoor Campaign & visibility materials:**

- A 4th round of the outdoor campaign took place during the reporting period with the aim to promote the 2nd plenary outcomes. Around 7600m² of outdoors materials were printed and placed in the main cities in 14 governorates including Aden, Al-Baidha, Lahaj and Al-Mukalla in the South.
- Indoors' visibility materials were provided in the venues of the NDC and during community participation activities and field visits.

- **Print Material:**

- New series of NDS publications were compiled, edited and printed:
 - 2.000 copies: *Southern Issue: the roots and content* (volume 1&2)
 - 2.000 copies: *South Issue: The solutions* (Volume3)
 - 2.000 copies: *Saada issue: Roots and solutions*
 - 2.000 copies: *State building: the visions of constituencies*
- All final plenary visibility materials (banners, rollups, flyers, etc.) were produced and made ready.

- **New Media:**

- **Website**

- The NDC website ensured daily coverage of the NDC activities and

confirmed its position as the primary source of all NDC news with around 1.5 million unique hits, of which 600.000 were recorded during the first 2 weeks of September.

- During the reporting period, the Arabic website produced around 1600 articles, increasing the content production to over 4.000 articles since its launch in March.
- The website also published more than 2000 new photographs and uploaded over 150 videos produced or recorded by the Media Department.
- English version of the website was made available starting from the first week of May. More than 1.100 articles were produced since then.

- **Social media**

- The number of Facebook followers more than doubled passing from 28K in June to 60.000+ during the reporting period. (1500+ posts during the 3rd quarter)
- The number of Twitter followers increased from 2700 in June to 4500+ by the end of the reporting period. (700 twits during the reporting period or 12 twits daily in average).
- 820+ subscribers on YouTube channel and more than 2100 watching hours (364 videos uploaded with a daily average of 6 videos).

- **Community Participation:**

- **Dialogue Tents:** IOM 16 dialogues tents, which were operating during the previous quarter, continued hosting public participation activities in coordination with the CP unit of the NDS throughout the reporting period. In August, the partnering CSOs and volunteers running these tents were invited by NDS to orientation and training workshop on 2nd plenary outcomes and the better ways to support and disseminate them.
- **Field Visits:** The CP unit staff organized visits to Taiz, Hudeida and Aden. The 3 cities were used as hub where CSOs from neighboring cities were hosted in workshops on NDC outcomes support and advocacy.
- **Dialogue Ambassadors:** 44 young Yemenis from 12 governorates who were trained by NDS with IOM and RGP cooperation during the 2nd quarter of the project and continued their mission till end of July.
- **Communities Participation:** The CP Unit started the progressive closing of the public participation activities in order to process the submissions. During the 3rd quarter, around 500 booklets, paper works and reports were received. Over 1660 valid public contributions were received summarizing the views of over 35.000 citizens.
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- **Media Center & Documentation Unit:**

- Established in partnership with IOM, it continue to offer its 20 Work Stations, dedicated workspaces for audiovisual media and high speed Internet to journalists representing 102 newspapers and news websites. During the 3rd quarter of the project, the daily average reach was 60 journalists and media workers. However, the reach extended to unprecedented levels during September with 150 media representatives present at the NDC venue.
- Dedicated workspaces for TV and Radios allowed the production of an average of 15 daily TV and radio interviews with delegates, Presidium

	<p>and Consensus Committee members, NDS officials, etc. The estimate number of interviews facilitated exceeded 450.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The auditorium served for over 50 meetings and hearing sessions organized by working groups & constituencies. Furthermore, 5 press conferences, 2 town halls and 4 forums also took place in this venue. - The Documentation & Media Unit, which was created within the NDS media department during the 2nd quarter of the project, documented more than 1100 hours of plenaries, working groups meetings and sub-committee meetings. The total of archived NDC sessions is nearing 3000 video hours now. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The Unit also produced and distributed daily news feeds (video rushes) to all Yemeni TV channels and some of the regional news channels. o Special full recording of the visions presented in South and Saada working groups were produced and aired by Yemeni TV and others local channels. o Four songs were produced – one of them addresses in tribal dialects – all call to join hands and support NDC outcomes <p>▪ Partnerships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Islamic Affairs: A 3 day forum was organized for 119 Imams in order to initiate them to NDC issues and decision-making process and face the anti-NDC campaign launched by some scholars. A “document of principles” was signed by the attendees stating their commitment to promote moderate Islam and abstain from spreading incendiary and hatred speeches. - Ministry of Tourism: The NDS joined hands with the ministry to sponsor Sana’a Summer Festival, which slogan was about national dialogue - Ministry of Sports: The NDS was selected as the main partner of the Arab & International boxing championship, the biggest sports’ event hosted by Yemen since the Gulf Football tournament. - Local CSOs: A human chain was organized in Sana’a in support to NDC outcomes. More than 1000 volunteers in addition to NDS team participated in the event, which was broadly covered by the media, - Four workshops and a national conference were organized local NGOs for media people around the NDC outcomes advocacy in which the NDS communication team was actively engaged. 	
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Qualitative achievements against outcomes and results:

The following results were achieved during the reporting period:

Outcome 1: “Implementation of the Agreement moves forward according to agreed timelines and steps, on the basis of quality technical, financial and administrative support”

The project built upon the initial UN-funded support which helped to kick start the establishment of the NDS in early 2013. By end of March the NDS was fully operational and ready provide logistical, technical and administrative support to the National Dialogue conference and working groups’ sessions. As of 30 June, UNOPS provided HR support to the 125 positions were completely filled by end of June and continued to work with the NDS. During this quarter the midterm plenary sessions continued through July and the 2nd round of the working groups started.

The Mid-Term Plenary was successfully launched on 8 June and ended on early July .The launch was held at the

Presidential Palace instead of Movenpick Hotel while the remaining sessions were held in the NDC venue i.e. Movenpick Hotel. The change in location implied a number of procurement activities outside of the procurement plan, such as audio-visual and printing services, and significant logistical arrangements including transportation.

The Plenary was followed by a period of the 2nd round of Working Group sessions. Daily support was provided to ensure the smooth running of the sessions. Support included: provision of security, in-country travel of delegates, and transport of volunteers, conference venue and related services, translation / interpretation. 17 International experts were deployed to provide technical support to the working groups and consensus committee as well as to assist in the preparations of the constitutional drafting process.

The NDS arranged access for International observers and government officials to attend some working group sessions and plenary sessions. Technical support and advice was made available for the 2nd round of working groups throughout this period.

The 2nd round of the working groups was supposed to be completed by 18 September. The working groups could not make the planned progress because of the southern movement's (Hirak) suspension after Eid AlFetr. The suspension caused delay in all components report because the southern movement were not voting or signing any of the reports.

After the delay of the Hirak suspension, with the mediation support the ND-SG and SASG provided and with President Hadi took several steps to meet their demands, the southern movement finally agreed to re-join the working groups before the end of dialogue in a new formulation 8+8 subcommittee. Some of the working groups managed to submit their reports as planned; Independent institutions, development, good governance, rights and freedoms and army and security. Three working groups were late in submitting their reports for different controversial matters.

Given the extension of the Conference, UNOPS renegotiated and successively extended (with no unit cost increase) the contracts for venue and for all the related services. Small contracts for services were also negotiated and logistical support provided to enable the Special Adviser to host thematic meetings with NDC delegates.

Outcome 2: “The outcome of the Implementation of the Transition Agreement reflects an inclusive, transparent, meaningful and participatory process.”

- Throughout the 2nd Plenary and the second round Working Groups meetings, the NDS, supported by OSASG and UNOPS, continue its public outreach and communications campaign composed of 3 components: media outreach, civic education and public participation. The strategy, presented to the donors on April 17th, was divided to three phases:
 - Phase1 (urgent communication plan): February and March;
 - Phase2: April-July;
 - Phase3: August-Post NDC.

Throughout the reporting period, the NDS communication teams continued the implementation of the second phase and launched the third phase. Some of the aspects of the strategy were postponed due to the delay in the NDC works and are set to be implemented in parallel with the constitutional making process.

- The country's broad outdoor campaign launched during the first and second quarters of the project continued during the reporting period with a fourth round focusing on promoting the outcomes of the second plenary. With the support of the US embassy, around 7600m² of outdoors materials were printed and placed in 14 governorates, including Aden, Al-Baidha, Lahaj and Al-Mukalla in the South. The outcomes and the messaging were carefully selected to meet the expectations of different targeted audiences. Thus, for instance, outcomes aiming at addressing the past grievances were more present in the South and Saada while outcomes related to development and good governance were publicized more in the poor provinces like Hudeida and Maareb. For the first time since the launch of NDC outdoors

campaigns, no damage to billboards and lampposts were reported in the South, which is a significant improvement comparing to the 1st and 2nd quarters of the project (respectively 70% and 15% of outdoors were destroyed).

- To keep the NDC high on the agenda during Ramadan and the summer period, the NDS communications teams devised a special communication plan with the aim to explain the outcomes of the 2nd Plenary and educate the public on the main concepts included in the 2nd Plenary final report. The plan took into consideration the difficult access to local TVs airing space during this period (mid-July to mid-August) because of the significant increase in commercial ads.

Indeed, most of the NDC flashes vanished from Yemeni screens and only the official Yemen TV continued to sporadically broadcast some of them. Except the news, almost no presence of NDC media materials could be watched and nothing could be done to change this situation as the air space was booked months prior to Ramadan.

However, the State owned channel agreed to dedicate a daily 10 minutes competition show about NDC issues. Furthermore, the NDS media team reached an agreement with Aljazeera Mubasher to organize live “Dialogue Iftar” shows: Six 45 minutes programmes hosted 6 Working Groups (State Building, Independent Entities, Good Governance, Development and Rights and Freedoms and the South) and two 45 minutes talk shows discussed the issue of State identity after the “campaign” launched by some scholars against State Building & Rights & Freedoms working groups and NDC at large.

After Ramadan, the TV programming gradually came back to normal and several daily and weekly talk-shows in different local channels discuss the NDC related issues.

- To compensate the limited access to TVs during and post Ramadan and in order to better reach out to rural populations, more focus was put on radio stations during the reporting period. Thus, 14 national and local radios continue to be actively engaged in covering NDC and reserved special programming for civic education and public participation. During July, more than 80 civic education programmes and flashes were produced and broadcast by the partner radios. This engagement continued throughout Ramadan, with daily talk shows (giving significant space to public questions and contributions) aired by the national radio and 13 other local and private radios.

Furthermore, the NDS media teams joined hands with the national radio and 12 other local radios to produce over 100 flashes in different local dialects to promote some of the outcomes included in the final report of the second plenary.

- Ramadan and summer coincided with the second round of Working Groups meetings (no live coverage ensured by local TV channels). The Documentation and Media Unit, created within the Media Department during the 2nd quarter of the project, continued to play the role of “NDC news agency” and distributed daily feeds to local and regional channels (8 local channels on regular basis, the others on demand). The Unit also documented in full the Working Groups and Sub-Committees meetings raising the number of videotaped sessions to around 2800 hours (over 1100 hours during the reporting period). It also made available the uncut versions of constituencies’ visions presented in the Southern Issue, State building and Saada Working Groups. Yemen TV and other channels throughout August broadcast the videotaped visions in full.
- The NDS news website (www.ndc.ye) also played the role of a primary source of all Dialogue and NDC bodies’ news (Consensus Committee, presidium and NDS). While the website received more than 2 million single hits since its creation in March, it was particularly visited during September with over 600.000 unique hits in the first two weeks of the month. The increase in NDS online platforms popularity was confirmed by the number of followers on NDC Facebook page, which more than doubled in the reporting period comparing to the 2nd quarter of the project reaching 60.000. The followers on twitter followed the same path and passed from 2700 at the end of June to over 4500 by the end of the 3rd quarter.

- During the reporting period, the media centre continued to be the forum of all local and international media representatives. The daily reach varied between 60 journalists and media workers daily during the Working Groups meetings and exceeded by times 150 daily during the plenaries (July and September). An average of 15 TV and radio interviews were facilitated daily with an estimate number of interviews hosted by the centre exceeding 450.
- While the 2nd quarter of the project witnessed the launch of the full-scale community participation strategy, the 3rd quarter was more dedicated to smoothly close the process and analyze the public submissions. During that period, more the 500 booklets, reports, presentations and paper-works were submitted. In additions, the Community Participation Unit received 1665 valid contributions reflecting the views of over 35.000 Yemeni citizens. The door of submissions was closed on September 18th.

Besides, 16 Dialogue Tents in different governorates continued to host citizens offering them a tribune to discuss Dialogue related issues and submit their contributions. The members of partner CSOs and volunteers participating in the supervision of these tents benefited from orientation workshops on the 2nd plenary outcomes and advocacy techniques.

The NDS social media, Facebook page in particular, was a very popular platform for public discussions, criticism and recommendations. A poll organized on the preferred structure of the state by the public received more than 85.000 participations in one week.

The CP Unit organized three field visits to reach out with partner CSOs. Taiz, Aden and Hudeida were selected as hubs to host organizations from neighboring cities and governorates in workshops on NDC outcomes support and advocacy.

- The media campaign has faced many challenges; some of them continued from the previous reporting period, others are new.

- ***Continuing Challenges*** (see the report of the 2nd quarter for details):

- Difficult access to the Southern governorates because of the maximalist positions prevailing in the street
- Difficult access to rural and isolated areas, especially for public participation activities.
- The prohibition by law of NDS from being an implementer of public participation activities. The law restricts this role in coordination and supervision.
- The continuing media war and the non-observance of ethical and professional standard in reporting NDC news (15 to 20 fabricated stories counted daily)
- The “voracious appetite” of Yemeni media outlets and journalists for money. NDS has been often attacked and reporting on NDC biased as a result of not “paying” journalists. Official media stopped some of these programmes (Yemen TV) or reduced their coverage (Sabanews agency) for the same reasons.

- ***New Challenges:***

- **Security Situation:**

The security situation was always fragile, but it significantly deteriorated during the reporting period creating more limitations to NDS communications team movement on the ground. The most dangerous security incident for the media team was the abduction of a locally employed international,

- **Attacks on NDC:**

During the reporting period, some influent scholars launched a campaign against the members of State Building Working Group and the NDC at large. The campaign created more suspicion among the public regarding the outcomes of the conference, falsely presented by some traditional powers as “altering Yemeni identity and opposing Islam principles”.

In response, the communication teams organized a 3 day orientation forum for 119 Imams and prepared an urgent media plan for delegates and NDS on how to tackle the issue with journalists.

- **Delay in the NDC timetable:**
Set to be closed on September 18th, the Conference failed to meet this deadline. The delay affected the communication strategy implementation and budget. Lots of communication activities were extended or delayed and many vendors' contracts had to be extended generating unforeseen costs.
- **Delay in Implementation of Confidence Building measures:**
The delay in implementation of the 20 +11 points altered the credibility of all positive media messages around NDC and its outcomes. The Media team came up with a proposal to the president of the NDC (president of the republic) to reach out with different components of the society and to build on what had been achieved of the 20 points. In coordination between the NDS and the Presidential Office, numerous aspects of this strategy, called "Ramadan and post Ramadan communication plan", were implemented throughout the reporting period.
- **Ramadan & Summer period:**
The special programming of Ramadan prevented the media team from properly implementing its plans for audiovisual media. The airing space was booked by advertisers, and the programming more oriented towards entertainment. Creating news windows was impossible in private channels and very limited on National TV. The NDS teams shifted the focus to radios to compensate this.

The last ten days of Ramadan and the whole week of Eid Al-Fitr were an official holiday for NDC delegates. The communication team tried to keep the NDC present in the public domain by increasing discussions on social media platforms and continuing the campaign promoting the 2nd plenary outcomes. It also joined hands with the presidential office to draft a "Ramadan and post Ramadan communication plan" for the President around NDC (see above).

(END)

¹ *The term "project" is used for projects and joint programmes*