



Yemen National Dialogue and Constitutional Reform Trust Fund (YNDCRTF)



PROJECT¹ QUARTERLY PROGRESS UPDATE

(for posting on the YNDCRTF web site)
as of 31 March 2014

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:	85078				
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\$ 16,295,171.09				
Location:	Country-wide				
SC Approval Date:					
Project Duration:	15 months	Starting Date:	19 Feb2013	Completion Date:	18 May2014
Funds Committed:	USD 16,208,951.29			Percentage of Transferred:	%1.00
Funds Disbursed:	USD 16,045,641.88			Percentage of Transferred:	%98.00
Expected Project Duration:		Forecast Final Date:	18 Aug 2014	Delay (Months):	6 months

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 Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Yemen (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. After the conclusion of the 8+8 sub-committee with the Just Solution Document proposal from the SASG, President Hadi with the (Special Advisor to the Secretary General) SASG and Secretary General of the NDC (SG) continued their mediation efforts to bring all constituencies and sign the southern solution document; 2. 20 International experts in constitutions, federalism and law were contracted and mobilised during this reporting period. Those experts were deployed to provide technical assistance to mediation meetings and for the start of the Constitution Drafting process. In addition, national expert and consultants were engaged, based on the needs which evolved during the NDC. 3. Background papers and information sheets were developed and distributed to NDC delegates in order to respond to the evolving needs of the meetings. These technical materials were developed by various national and international consultants, which were coordinated by OSASG and the NDS; 4. The NDS supported the integration of in-kind advice and support from other local and international development partners (e.g. various OSASG/UNOPS, Ministry of Water, French Embassy, NDI, World Bank, UNDP, OHCHR, IOM, Berghof, CDF, and others), including background papers, trainings, and expert sessions; 5. During this quarter, OSASG in coordination with the Constitution Drafting Committee General Secretariat CDC-GS and support of UNOPS, prepared and implemented a one week planning workshop for the Constitution Drafting Committee (CDC) . 	<p>100% achieved planned for the period of reporting</p> <p>80% achieved for the project</p>
<p>1.2 Well-resourced secretariats provide the administrative, logistical and technical support to the National Dialogue and Constitutional process structures, including Preparatory Committee, National Dialogue Committee, and Constitutional Commission</p>	<p>UNOPS continued providing support to the NDS during this quarter. By end of January the Dialogue was concluded at last. Support to the final plenaries was provided including operational support; logistics; security arrangements and human resource management. The major activities were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Extension of 120 NDS staffing until end Feb 2014 and for 57 until 15 March 2014 (to cover the Secretariat’s operational closure activities, as per NDS Closure Plan).By end of March the NDS had only 27 staff who had new contracts to move the CDC-GS 2. Extension of conference-related service contracts for the period Feb 2014, including conference services (hotel, transport, interpretation, volunteers, office space, facilitators, telephone, internet, etc.), running operational costs for extended life-time of Secretariat, moving NDS to the Hadda NDS office; 3. UNOPS liaised with non-Trust Fund donors to cover part of the additional costs arising from the prolonged conference sessions: IOM (with USAID funding) covered 2 weeks of the final plenary session’s costs for hotel conference services as well as some elements of the communications/media activities. 4. The closure of the NDS included many activities like HR downsizing plan and implementation, archiving, working on final reports for each unit and with the support of a national consultant compiling all of them in one final report covering the lifetime of the NDS. 	<p>100% achieved planned for the period of reporting</p> <p>80% achieved for the project</p>

	<p>5. In addition to the closure arrangements done by NDS with support of UNOPS, the NDS started working on the CDC-GS structuring and initial plan to start supporting the CDC and the process. UNOPS also was working on terminating all lease and service contracts of the Movenpick hotel then the NDS Hadda office. UNOPS also worked in identifying and preparing a new location to absorb the new process and its meetings.</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>	<p>1. The SASG chaired two coordination meetings for international counterparts in order provide updates on the NDC, and to discuss mechanisms of international support for the NDC process and strategic planning for the constitution-making process. The NDS continued to ensure access for international observers from various embassies, donors, INGOs and international partners who attended a number of working groups' sessions.</p> <p>2. Two Steering Committee meetings were held during this quarter</p> <p>3. Five (5) NDC UN working group coordination meetings were held and chaired by OSASG and two (2) YNDCRTF Steering committee meetings also took place.</p>	<p>100% achieved planned for the period of reporting</p> <p>80% achieved for the project</p>
<p>Outcome 2: “The outcome of the Implementation of the Transition Agreement reflects an inclusive, transparent, meaningful and participatory process.”</p>		
<p>2.1,2.2,2.3 and 2.4</p>	<p>The four outputs of outcome 2 were not implemented through this project due to limited funding received. Many agencies worked on some of the planned activities and reached some of their targeted beneficiaries through other funds like UNICEF, OSASG, UNDP, UNFPA and OHCHR.</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, continued working on their media and communication plan. During the reporting period due to the extension of the NDC, the NDS embarked on finalizing the third phase of the outreach and communication strategy. Specific activities around the closing of the NDC were added to the previously planned in the initial communication strategy. The main activities implemented include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional media: <p>TV:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regular live broadcasting was ensured by two State-owned TV channels; on-and-off live coverage by some private and political channels and one international news channel (Aljazeera Mubasher). All closing plenaries were aired live with 88 total hours (22 hours in total X 4 dedicated channels) including the closing ceremony; more than 25 TV stations broadcasted the closing ceremony. - Increased hours of dedicated talk shows on the Southern Issue, State Building and Federal System during the peak of the media attack against the Southern Issue Document. The State owned channels and 3 private channels were mobilized. Dozens of live and recorded hours were aired. - Over 80 additional TV flashes reflecting selected NDC outcomes were produced (mainly the final outcomes) and started to be aired right before January 25 and afterwards. Two songs were broadcasted during the closing ceremony and one documentary on the NDC was produced and broadcasted. - Dozens of interviews in the NDC media center and channel studios for select NDC members and NDS leadership <p>Radio:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Around 80+ hours of live broadcast in Sana'a and Aden radios for plenaries and local radios all aired the closing ceremony live. 	<p>100% achieved planned for the period of reporting</p> <p>90% achieved for the project</p>

- Continue to air mid-plenary flashes which are around 70 by local and national radio stations

- **Print & Online media:**

- Maximum increase of media coverage of NDC – positive and negative – during the first three weeks of January, hundreds of articles were monitored. 250 journalists attended the closing ceremony on 25 January.
- NDC website produced variety of content (312 articles – between last week of Dec 2013 and end of March): news of the daily plenaries and meetings; feature stories around the NDC outcomes; interviews with select “positive” NDC delegates and coverage of supportive events and meetings across the country.

Outdoor Campaign & visibility materials:

- Affirmative “Success” Messaging in the outdoor visibility strategy to connect NDC closing with success and emphasize on “Partnership” in this success. A nationwide outdoor campaign utilizing all the locations the NDS has (4000 square meters) in Sanaa and other cities including the southern governorates. The NDS team mobilized the Capital Secretariat; the largest Banks; telecom companies, and leading business houses and obtained around 10,000 square meters extra..
- Indoors visibility materials (banners, rollups, flyers, etc) were provided in the venues of the NDC for the final plenary in January and the closure ceremony.

Print Material:

- 17,000 print outs of the final NDC outcome document. These publications were distributed to delegates, media and civil society organizations (CSOs).
- Production and Printing of 1500 the One Year of Dialogue booklet
- Printing 10,000 copies of the seven NDC thematic outcomes booklets
- All final plenary visibility materials (banners, rollups, flyers, etc.) were produced and made available.

Social media

- The number of Facebook followers increased during the reporting period, exceeding 140,000 by end of January compared to 92,000 by end December 2013. Twitter account followers increased by 2000+ users during the reporting period.
- Hundreds of downloads for the outcome document from the NDC website were registered during the first month of 2014.
- All videos produced to the final ceremony were uploaded to the NDC youtube channel including the closing ceremony itself in full footage and in segmented speeches.

SMS System:

- A two-way SMS system was designed for NDC needs and launched on 27 December, in partnership with four (4) main mobile operators in Yemen. Providing subscribers with daily updates, outcomes of the NDC and Constitution drafting progress. By end of March, the number of subscribers 53,804.

- **Community Participation:**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordination with CSOs: The CP Unit continued its coordination role with CSOs and served as a focal point on NDS/NDC side. - Dialogue Tents: The 16 dialogues tents, funded by USAID through IOM, in coordination with the NDS and continued to serve as a venue for trainings and other NDC outcome related awareness workshops and events conducted by CSOs and NDS. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media Center & Documentation Unit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - During January, the Media Center continued to offer its services to journalists, representing 102 newspapers and news websites. - With the closure of the NDS, final archiving and data backup took place during this quarter for the NDC. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnerships: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNION of the Chamber of Commerce and Yemeni Business Club: An event hosting representatives from the business community was held in the Media Center. The event was to highlight the important role of the business community support in the closing stage of the NDC. The largest supporting businesses were honoured with NDS VIP shields in recognition of their support to the NDC from day one. - Journalists: Informal social gathering with some 20 journalists from the local media and local correspondents of regional and international media had an open and frank discussion with the SG about the Southern Issue and the entire complexity of the NDC. They outcome was positive and supportive. - Capital Secretariat, Police Academy; Ministry of Defense and Yemen Economic Corporations: The closing ceremony was graciously supported by these two entities. Thanks to Event Management; Operation and Outreach teams. The special activities organized include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Street Show - Horse march in Sana'a streets and mainly 70 Street in the morning during the closing ceremony - Fireworks in Sana'a, Taiz, Aden and other cities in the evening of the closing ceremony day - Thousands of balloons were sent off above the Republican Palace in the morning of the closing ceremony - Parachuting and air force show 	
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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”

By end March 2013, under this project as a main source of funding, the NDC was running and fully operational. The NDS, with 125 national staff with the support of UNOPS provided logistical, technical and administrative support to the National Dialogue Conference working groups and CDC meetings. The NDC prolonged sessions and plenaries continued to early January 2014. Finally the NDC was concluded on 25 January 2014 and the NDC

outcome document was produced and distributed in a closure ceremony at the presidential palace.

During this quarter UNOPS and NDS continued providing daily operational and technical support to the final plenaries and other mediation meetings which were still on going on January 2014. Support included: provision of security, in-country travel of delegates, conference venue and related services, translation/interpretation. Twenty (20) international experts were deployed. Three experts continued working with the delegates and consensus committee during the plenaries and finalizing the outcome document, another eight were deployed later on to assist in the preparations and planning workshop for the Constitution Drafting process.

The main challenge for the NDC closure was to conclude the southern issue. After the 8+8 sub-committee sessions and then the Just Solution Document proposal, intensive mediation efforts by the President, SASG and NDS SG were undertaken to reach agreement and sign the solution document to conclude the NDC. An initiative to solve the disagreements over the regions division was by formulating the Regions Determination Committee who worked after the NDC closure to determine the number of regions.

Given the delays in the working groups' time lines due to the suspension of some constituencies and prolonged discussions around some controversial issues, the NDC was prolonged for more than three months. This extension affected the planned budget for the operations and logistics costs as well as communication expenses. UNOPS successfully liaised with IOM to cover the last two week extension in the Movenpick hotel.

The closing ceremony was held on 25 January 2014 in the presidential palace. President Hadi and senior state officials, leaders of political parties and civil society organizations, as well as high-level delegations of foreign countries, including the ten countries sponsoring the Gulf Initiative, the Arab League and the United Nations attended this historic momentum of Yemen transition. UNOPS in coordination with the National Dialogue Secretariat provided logistical and operational support for the event. With the very high profile attendees of the ceremony, extensive safety and security measures were taken to facilitate safety of the attendees and success of the event especially because it was right after the recent terrorist attack on Al-Erdhi hospital and assassination of one of the most important delegates, Dr Ahmed Sharafaddin.

After the closing ceremony, the NDS started their closure activities. With the support of UNOPS, the NDS released their staffing on three stages to ensure proper closure. By the end of the reporting period the NDS staff number reached 27 of the 125. After the NDC had ended, there was no need for the NDS to stay in the Movenpick hotel and they moved back to the Hadda building to work on their closure. The NDS had other activities during their closure like archiving, backup data and writing final reports for each unit. A national consultant was contracted to compile the different units' reports into one consolidated final report for the NDS. During the closure another national consultant continued to work on the "Dialogue Story".

During the NDS closure arrangements, the NDS started working on the preparations and start-up of the constitution drafting process. The NDS worked on the new structure of the Secretariat and CDC induction plan. The CDC assigning decree was out on 8 March, meetings of the CDC started to be held in the Republican Place on 16 March. OSASG in coordination with the NDS and support of UNOPS mobilised resources and experts for the CDC planning workshop and deployed eight international experts to provide technical advice and lessons learned from other companies in similar processes at the workshop in Taiz governorate. The seven day workshop happened in the last week of March, the main purpose was to provide the CDC members with lessons learned from other countries on constitution making processes and to assist as needed in creating work modality, policies and plan for the process of drafting the constitution.

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

During this quarter, the NDS, supported by OSASG and UNOPS, continued their outreach and a number of communications activities that were not planned in its initial communications strategy. The Media Department and the Community Participation Unit had to extend some projects and initiate new ones to respond to new communications needs due to the delay in the National Dialogue Conference. Noting that, the Communication team worked the minimum capacity after January 25 due to the NDS closure arrangements and a new phase to start, the entire NDS was downsized. However, in preparation for the new phase, the NDS communication,

technical support and community participation teams worked closely with the support of international experts from OSASG and IOM worked in developing a national communication strategy to disseminate the NDC outcomes. The work on this plan continued to the next quarter and was not accomplished during this quarter.

The department increased tremendously the media coverage on local TVs – public and private, online media, social media to encounter the aggressive attack on the Southern Just Solution Document. The main objective was to establish a public support to the Southern Just Solution Document by mitigating the risks raised by the aggressive and well-organized campaign initiated by political affiliated media. Local TV stations continued running the NDC outcomes on and off throughout the months of February and March. The Media team continuously provided technical support to the “Aftermath of the NDC” live daily show on Yemen TV. In addition to NDC and CDC updates on TV and national media outlets coverage. Another issue the media unit ensured daily coverage of was the Regions Identification Commission meetings and progress via TV and national media.

After trying to encounter the damage done by those opposing the Just Solution Document, the media department focused their efforts on establishing the sense of public ownership of the NDC document through the TV flashes, Radio flashes and Outdoor campaign and visibility materials messaging. Emphasising on affirmative “Success” message in all outdoor, indoor, TV, Radio and Print media to rule out the failure labels. The media unit monitored hundreds of articles and publications during this quarter. Short news updates on the final plenaries and CDC work progress were regularly sent out to subscribers through four (4) mobile phone companies via sms.

During this quarter, the NDS media center continued to host journalists and media workers representing 102 media outlets. The media unit continued to provide regular updates for news agencies up to the closing ceremony. With the closure of the NDS and movement to the new smaller location in Hadda, the media center was closed, hence the media unit continued to provide their regular updates of the CDC work progress.

One of the major activities the media department worked on during this quarter was the closing ceremony. A special song was produced highlighting success and consensus building. The song was broadcasted for the first time live during the ceremony. Another national song portrait with children re-singing famous patriotic songs from the north and south with sceneries from all over Yemen in the background. In addition, two videos were produced on the late NDC delegates and one was dedicated to the delegate assassinated in January Dr Ahmed Sharafaddin highlighting his accomplishments and influential efficient participation in the dialogue. Children Message No.3 was performed live in the event during which the NDC Outcome Document was handed to the president as Yemen’s future project. Very wide media coverage was undertaken for this event, which was one of the main factors to promote the “Success” of the dialogue. Around 250 journalists attended the event and more than 25 national and international TV stations broadcasted the ceremony. Eight local and global news stations and foreign freelancers attended and covered the event. In addition, NDC branded visibility materials were produced and distributed during the event (Pins, pens, notebooks, bags, publications, flags, shawls, etc...).

One of the major optimistic results for the campaign was that the noticeable relief of the population after the closing official ceremony with all the opposition campaigns, delays to the dialogue, suspensions and during signing the Just Solution Document. Another informative sign in the south was that none of the new Outdoor visibility was reported to be damaged in the Southern governorates. In addition, people went out in celebration marches in some southern governorates like Aldhalei. In the 16 tents which are operated by IOM, on 25 January, a parallel closing celebration took place in the governorates with an impressive number of people who attended to celebrate the success of the dialogue.

During this quarter, and after the closing ceremony, the media unit and community participation unit started to work on the post NDC outreach activities and closure activities. The closure activities were focused in archiving and backup data for the NDC and restructuring the media and community participation unit for the CDC-GS. And in the same time, the core staff continued working on categorizing the outcome document and summarizing the most initial key points to focus the outcomes outreach by selecting the most debated issues and promote the agreed solutions proposed in the outcome document. After the CDC formulation presidential decree, new modifications were required for the plan which were to include the delegates in the NDC outcome outreach during the constitution drafting process. This and other factors caused an increase in the plan time line for the post NDC outreach and taken it from three to six months minimum. Materials and booklets on the key issues preparations started in this quarter and will continue in the succeeding quarter and work will be coordinated by the CDC-GS and implemented with the NDC delegates as NDC ambassadors and CSOs country wide.

