

Yemen- DEV- 200432

Mr President, distinguished delegates, good afternoon!

Yemen is in the midst of a difficult political transition, while facing a deteriorating humanitarian crisis, with high fuel and food prices, a breakdown of services, and internal conflict and political division, insecurity, and the situation remains extremely fragile.

A recent WFP comprehensive food security survey found that more than 10 million Yemenis (nearly 45% of the population) are food insecure. Five million of them (or 22% were found to be severely food insecure, unable to produce or buy the food they need.

Malnutrition is (amongst the) highest in the world, and one third of the population lacks adequate food. About, 90 % of the food supply is imported and subject int. price fluctuation.

Unfortunately, the country has dropped to 160th in the UN human development index, with serious deficiencies in literacy and school attendance, and gender disparities.

To address Yemen's humanitarian crisis, WFP has launched a massive 242 million emergency operation targeting 5 million people in 2013, which is also helping conditions conducive to political reconciliation.

Yemenis have taken concrete steps towards democracy - with a smooth transfer of power and the initiation of a national dialogue with a definitive plan to draw up for a new constitution and holding of a free election in Feb 2014.

Long term security, stability, good Governance and Democracy will be impossible to achieve without investing in efforts to create prosperity and opportunity for all.

Given its enormous structural problems, the country also needs to embark on a high priority rehabilitation, recovery and developmental path. However, these

problems are too big to be solved only through a series of crisis interventions or without substantive outside help.

Sustainable international engagement and support including the promotion of opportunity for all, including gender equality is crucial for the long term peace , stability and promotion of democracy in Yemen.

Along with on-going emergency support, it is in this light , the project 200432 is being presented for your approval.

During the two years period, the project, is expected to encourage over 70,000 girls to enrol at schools and to continue to attend classes. As the rural girls lag behind due to traditional attitudes towards girls education, it will be a major achievement for the country where, in the words of the Minister of Education, girls attendance in primary school is currently only 50 % where some 70 % dropout before they end their primary level education.

We all agree, educating children especially girls increases their incomes, improves their health and nutrition and enhances their resilience. The investment we make in educating children will pay dividends for generations to come.

The project is built on the previous WFP support, which continued to demonstrate that support to school girls helps to reduce the education gender gap in Yemen through the provision of food incentives to encourage families to enrol and keep their daughters in basic and secondary education.

The continuation of WFP support is based on the recommendation of the 2011 Country Portfolio Evaluation and is in line with government objectives, the Millennium Development Goals and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework cycle of 2012-2015.

WFP's support to girls' education is also in line with component three of the Joint United Nations Framework to support the Transition in Yemen (2012-2014) to promote and support sustainable livelihoods and basic social services, including support to education through the Ministry of Education.

Increased synergies have been identified through the formalization of partnerships with UNICEF and WHO to support systematic planning and implementation of joint and complementary activities, especially deworming campaigns, and delivery of the minimum essential package for health and education, including training of female teachers and building of additional class rooms as well as the provision of education materials in partnership with UNICEF and other development partners

We have indications of a number of donors support to the project and are strongly hopeful that more will join us for the provision of incentives for many more girls to attend schools than the project envisages.

Thank you Mr President.