

LOBBYING TOUR

FINAL REPORT

Mar-Apr 2018



OXFAM

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INTRO..



During March 19-April 23, 2018, OXFAM and partner organizations have facilitated a European Lobbying Tour for selected representatives of four local NGOs to advocate for local NGO leadership, strengthening the 'humanitarian-development-nexus' in the country and to share best practices and humanitarian response knowledge with a variety of stakeholders from the international community.

UN agencies, INGOs, NNGOs, government authorities and local Yemeni NGOs are all joining efforts to contain the humanitarian disaster in Yemen, however experience has shown that there are certain gaps in the humanitarian response because millions of people continue to be without assistance. Discussions with the various humanitarian partners and analysis of the situation pointed

out that Yemeni NGOs, who are very well positioned in terms of geographical proximity to the people in need, local knowledge, and ability to penetrate access restrictions, are facing multiple challenges in standing as equal partners with international agencies such as capacity limitations, language barriers, access to funds, lack of access to coordination and partnership platforms; thus it has become evident that strengthening humanitarian partnerships and supporting local humanitarian leadership was the only way for bridging the gaps in the humanitarian response and moving ahead. This gave rise to the need for understanding the capacities of the various humanitarian actors, existing inter-linkages between them and the roles they play.

OXFAM organized for the Yemeni delegation to visit key capitals/cities in Europe (Paris, Brussels and The Hague) in addition to facilitate participation in the High-level Pledging Conference for the humanitarian crisis in Yemen held in Geneva. Oxfam supported the delegation to meet with donors and officials in the four countries.

In Amman, the delegation arranged themselves couples of pertinent meetings with stakeholders and also attended one partnership workshop during their stay waiting for visas. The four local NGOs participated are: Yemen Family Care Association (YFCA) based in Sana'a, To Be Foundation (TBF) based in Aden, Wedyan Association for Society Development (WASD) based in Aden and Generations without Qat (GWQ) based in Taiz.

1. AMMAN



The delegation has visited the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to Yemen (OESGY) in Amman, Jordan and met with the officers there to discuss matters of concern. The humanitarian-development-peace nexus programming was deeply discussed. The OESGY team members were debriefed about the activities of each delegation member participated in the European Lobbying Tour.



Amman. Mar 30-31, 2018: The four-member delegation has managed to attend a two-day consultation meeting with Yemen Civil Society in Amman hosted by the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) with the attendance of the representative of the EU ambassador to Yemen Antonia Calvo Puerta. During the workshop, a presentation was made on the main findings of the field survey conducted by EU in Yemen to have a clearer data about the capacity of CSOs in Yemen, overview of EU engagement with CSOs in Yemen and how to ensure a more regular and effective dialogue with CSOs. The workshop serves as a roadmap facility in support of European Union Delegation (EUD) to Yemen.



2. GENEVA

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Geneva. Apr 3, 2018: The United Nations and the Governments of Sweden and Switzerland convened a High-Level Pledging Event in Geneva for the Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen, to support the humanitarian response in Yemen and alleviate the suffering of the Yemeni people.

In the session finale of the event, international donors pledged more than US\$2 billion to support the delivery of urgently needed humanitarian aid to millions of people in Yemen.

The delegation participated in this event to voice out the genuine situation in Yemen and meet with donors, influencers and member states on the fringes of the event.



Meeting with Jette Michelsen, Chief Adviser of Humanitarian Action, Civil Society and Personnel Assistance of International Development Cooperation (DANIDA) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark.

One of the delegation members- TBF- participated in the plenary session of Empowerment of Women in Yemen. The session discussed empowering women to participate fully in the economic life across all sectors.



Meeting was convened with Peter Semneby, Ambassador, Special envoy for Middle East and North Africa Department of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sweden.

With Christian Testot, Ambassador of France to Yemen. This meeting was attended also by two additional Yemeni local NGOs who are member in the Women For Yemen Network.



Meeting with Amy Sheils, First Secretary & Andrea Wickham Moriarty, Desk Officer, Middle East & North Africa unit. Both of the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations.



With George Okoth-Obbo, Assistant High Commissioner for Operations of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Meeting was held in the HQ of the UNHCR in Geneva, Switzerland.



On the fringes of the working breakfast on cholera (co-hosted by UK Minister of State for the Middle East and North Africa Alistair Burt & UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and the Emergency Relief, Mark Lowcock: YFCA was in a stand-up meeting with the UK Minister Alistair Burt, the UK ambassador to Yemen Michael Aron and OXFAM country director to Yemen Shane Stevenson. The working breakfast was convened one hour before the morning plenary sessions of the high-level pledging event.



The delegation visited the HQ of the SPHERE Initiative in Geneva. The SPHERE team were impressed that YFCA promotes for the SPHERE standards in Yemen and having already 100+ of its staff graduated from the SPHERE online courses. SPHERE staff in the photo includes: Tristan Hale, Learning and Development and Barbara Sartore, Communications Management. The delegation got free hard copies of SPHERE!

With Mohammed Ali Al Nasour, Chief of Middle East and North Africa Section of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The meeting was attended by Joy Muller, OXFAM Geneva Representative of Humanitarian Affairs.



A high-level meeting with the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to Yemen Martin Griffiths. Deliberations encompass the roles of the local NGOs in Yemen in delivering aids and hope for the highly vulnerable population in the country.

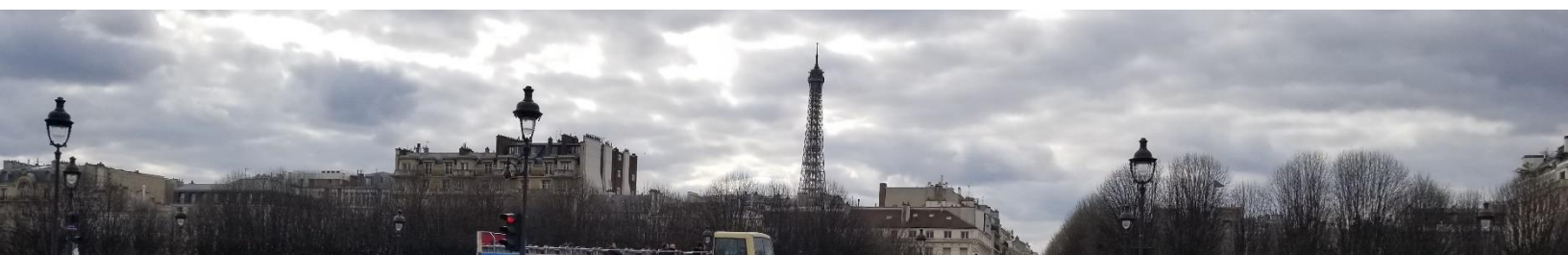
3. PARIS



Apr 4, 2018. In OXFAM office in Paris, the delegation met with couple of NGOs working in France and media reporters. Presentations were made about the recent humanitarian situation in the country and generic ideas about the lobbying tour.



Interviews were given to couple of press agencies in Paris including Radio France (Culture France), Agence France-Presse (AFP), France Médias Monde (FMM) and Monte Carlo Doualiya (MCD) Radio Network.



Meeting over Skype with couple of French policy-makers in the French parliament. The meeting was attended in office by Sylvain Biville the director of French Crisis Action.



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4. THE HAGUE



April 9, 2018. At OXFAM Novib office in The Hague, Netherlands:

Group meeting with a number of OXFAM Novib team members who were interested to hear details about the situation of Yemeni people during the humanitarian crisis. The attendees were debriefed about the participation of the delegation members in the high-level pledging event in Geneva and volume of pledged fund announced during the event.



Meeting with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Netherlands: Maarten Wammes, Senoro Policy Officer and Lander van Ommen, Health and WASH Advisor for Yemen. This meeting was attended by Awssan Kamal, Humanitarian Campaigns Coordinator for Yemen based out in UK.





The delegation met the press in Netherlands. The press agencies came included Peter Heintze of KUNO (Humanitarian Knowledge Exchange) who have posed bunch of questions to the delegation.

Meeting with couples of local NGOs of Netherlands to exchange views and experiences of the humanitarian work during emergencies. The meeting included brainstorming about humanitarian aid.



Meeting with Martijn J.F. van Helvert, Parliament member of CDA. The meeting was attended by Dirk Jan Jalvingh Policy Advisor Conflict and Humanitarian Response at Oxfam Novib.

The delegation met also Sjoerd Wiemer Sjoerdsma, Parliament Member of D66.

Both meetings discussed the humanitarian situation in Yemen and the support given from the member states.

Meeting with Sahar Ghanem, Yemen Ambassador to the Netherlands, Norway, and Sweden. Permanent Representative of Yemen to OPCW along with Wadhah Hadi, Counsellor.



Sahar Ghanem @GhanemSahar · Apr 9

Good meeting with leaders from #Yemeni NGOs visiting the Hague to raise awareness abt the humanitarian situation in Yemen. Proud of you dears.



5. BRUSSELS

Apr 11, 2018. In the Headquarters of Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO) and the European External Action Services (EEAS).



Meeting with Itziar Muñoa Salaverrera, Policy Adviser of Foreign Affairs Committee/Sub committee on Human Rights of Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) group in the European Parliament, Brussels.

Networking event facilitated by OXFAM Solidarities and International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) which is a global network of non-governmental organizations whose mission is to make humanitarian action more principled and effective by working collectively and independently to influence policy and practice.





Press meeting was arranged inside the OXFAM Solidarities in Brussels by the advocacy team of OXFAM. The invited press included Catherine Mommaerts, Service International Journalist of L'ECHO and Philippe Leurth, a journalist of L'avenir.

Coupe of meetings inside the HQ of the European Union in Brussels.





Meeting with Tine Meyfroodt, Desk Officer- Attaché of Humanitarian Aid of the Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Federal Public Service of Kingdom of Belgium.

Meeting continued with couple of humanitarian journalists in Brussels.



A group photo with the OXFAM Solidarities in Brussels, Belgium after having three back-to-back meetings with OXFAM Solidarities teammates, press and Belgian local NGOs.



Press and media coverage of the lobbying tour were made by couple of TV stations, newspapers and humanitarian media agencies in Geneva, Paris, The Hague and Brussels.

12/14/2018

IRIN | Record-breaking donation from Saudi Arabia, UAE sets stage for Yemen aid event

Eskindar Debebe / UN Photo

Geneva, 2 April 2018

IRIN

The inside story on emergencies

Ben Parker
Senior Editor
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A \$930 million cheque has broken records for humanitarian fundraising in the run-up to a UN pledging conference for aid to Yemen, but the motivations behind it are being questioned.

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are together picking up a third of this year's \$2.96 billion relief bill for what the UN has called "the worst humanitarian crisis in the world". But conflict analysts and human rights groups say Yemen's needs wouldn't be so intense if it weren't for a war the two nations helped start, and how they fight it.

Tirana Hassan, crisis director at Amnesty International, described it as "rather twisted" that a large proportion of the UN's funding plan will be paid by those who, she argued, have "played a significant role in creating and prolonging" the humanitarian crisis. Saudi Arabia and its allies, she added, ought to go "well beyond pulling out their cheque

<https://www.irinnews.org/news/2018/04/02/record-breaking-donation-saudi-arabia-uae-sets-stage-yemen-aid-event>

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ats, NGO executives, and other officials are due to attend the 2
event at the UN in Geneva, which should bring more promises of
for food, health, water, shelter, and other relief needs for Yemen's
ing civilian population.

jections are muted. With the Saudi Arabia/UAE funds
ed in, the 2018 Yemen response plan, involving UN and NGO
als, is around 43 percent funded. That means there's still a big
pay for the basic needs of Yemen's 22.2 million critically
d people – three quarters of the population.

Kumaim, of Yemeni NGO Yemen Family Care Association,
in the rebel-held capital of Sana'a, will be at the gathering. He
N: "The people's suffering is increasing dramatically day by

8/04/2018/record-breaking-donation-saudi-arabia-uae-sets-stage-yemen-aid-event

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Yemen: the voice of local NGOs from Yemen

KUNO: Expert briefing April 10, 2018, Oxfam Novib office (The Hague)

Speakers:

- Nabil Al-Kumain, Yemen Family Care Association.
- Jameem Abdulrageep, Wedyan Association for Society Development.
- Layla Al-fageeh, Generations Without Qat.
- Safa Murad Rafiq, TOBE Foundation for Rights and Freedoms.

Report by Peter Heintze (KUNO) & Dirk-Jan Jalving (Oxfam Novib).

April 2018.

Three years of conflict and lawlessness in Yemen did bring the Yemeni hunger, diphtheria and cholera. Nearly three of four Yemenis rely on humanitarian aid to survive. The dire situation is deteriorating every day.

In March the UN Security Council made a strong plea for humanitarian access: Humanitarian support and peace must take the place of destruction. In the first week of April the UN and their international partners launched an international appeal for almost 3 billion US\$ for life saving assistance. At a pledging conference in Geneva 2 billion US\$ was raised.

Four representatives of NGOs from Yemen, that visited the pledging conference in Geneva, visited also Brussels and other European capitals to share their story with politicians and policy makers. During their tour, facilitated by Oxfam, they made time for a small expert meeting for KUNO, the platform for humanitarian knowledge exchange in the Netherlands.

Nabil Al-Kumain, Associate Executive Director Partnerships and Communications for the Yemen Family Care Association. Based in Sana'a.

The pledging conference was a great achievement, but there is a big but. We made clear in the conference that it is not all about money. We say clearly that there are no humanitarian solutions for these humanitarian problems. The solution is political; we need political interventions and peace talks between all fragments of Yemeni people.

During the pledging conference we emphasized the importance to start thinking about or to focus more upon the Humanitarian Development Nexus (HDN). What we do not want at the end of the day, is that three billion US\$ will be dumped into the country as short term 'hit and run' relief: distributing food baskets. We are asking for resilience. We don't see that as sustainability, but as stability. At the moment stability in programming is very necessary for the country.

The humanitarian actors at the pledge conference challenged our suggestions. They said this is not the time for Yemen for Development. We told them that it is indeed not about development, but it is about the humanitarian Development Nexus. So try to do both things: emergency relief and at resilience-based programming.

People in Yemen have adapted to minimum requirements of life. Take for example cooking on gas. A canister of 20 liter is close to 10-thousand Yemeni Real (almost 20 dollar) at the black market. Gas canisters are not available at the public fare anymore. A family can cook one week on 20 liter of gas. But the average salary of Yemeni people is approximately one-hundred dollar. So about one-fifth of you salary will go to one week gas for cooking. Buy the way: there are no salaries. Especially in the North. For almost two years now, civil servants are without salary. And there is no public electricity in the country since April 2015.

Jameem Abdulrageep, Director Wedyan Association for Society Development. Based in Aden.

Aden is now the new transitional capital of Yemen. Three years ago the situation was very bad. Our work as NGOs was hard. Many NGOs had to close: buildings were destroyed, some of the workers were arrested, others were killed.

Now Aden is less unsafe than three years ago. There is a conflict between the Transitional Council and the Yemeni government. We have also some security issues about ISIS and Al Qaida. But as humanitarian organizations we can access many arrears. Many worries we are facing regards funding. Most of the international NGOs are based in Sana'a, not in Aden. Some have offices in Aden, but the staff has no authority. But we are in Aden, still fighting for people.


Meest recent Klimaat Conflict Mondialisering Migratie Ontwikkelin

INTERVIEW

amenitische activisten nemen het woord in VN-vergadering in Genève

In Jemen sterf je aan cholera, honger of oorlog

LICE DEVENYNS • 16 APRIL 2018



Jemen was reeds voor de aanvang van de oorlog in maart 2015 het armste land in de Arabische wereld, nu die Gazetronk na. Communiste was ook voor de oorlog al uitverreerd.

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In Jemen sterf je aan cholera, honger of oorlog. MOF Magazine - MOF



Politische activisten lieten in Genève hun stem gelden. Onder de radar blijft, zegt Awasan Kamal, medeopruwer voor efficiënte humanitaire hulpverlening. Het schiet de internationale gemeenschap tekort.

E week had iedereen het over de oorlog in Syrië. Niemand heeft het over de oorlog in Jemen.

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In Jemen sterf je aan cholera, honger of oorlog. MOF Magazine - MOF



Murad Rafiq eist dat alle beslissingen die internationaal worden genomen, ook op het zuiden. 'Net zoals het noodsteeds nood aan fundamentele humanitaire hulp. Gezien van het land, dient deze echter niet vervangen maar geconstrueerd te worden.'

Moeders van de vrede

Safa Murad Rafiq is vooral bezig met de rechten van vrouwen in de context van de oorlog in Jemen.

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<https://www.mofmagazine.nl/jemen-sterf-je-aan-cholera-honger-oorlog>

In Jemen sterf je aan cholera, honger of oorlog. MOF Magazine - MOF

2018

De Jemenitische delegatie heeft het vrijdag ook met enkele Belgische parlementariërs over een wapenstilstand. België is namelijk een belangrijke wapenleverancier van Saoedi-Arabië, zegt Catherine De Buck.

Gaza 2.0

Enige kans op verbetering in levensomstandigheden van de Jemenieten wordt voorlopig afgeremd door de blokkades op import. Saoedi-Arabië heeft sinds november 2017 het land hermetisch afgesloten, zowel zijn havens, landgrenzen als luchthavens.



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<https://www.mofmagazine.nl/jemen-sterf-je-aan-cholera-honger-oorlog>

**Delegation members
of the Yemeni local
NNGOs**

Photo L/R:

-Nabil Al Kumaim of
Yemen Family Care
Association (YFCA)
based in Sana'a

-Tameem Abdulrazeeb
of Wedyan Association
for Society Developmen
(WASD) based in Aden

- Safa Murshed of To
Be Foundation (TBF)
based in Aden

- Layla Al Faqueh of
Generations Without
Qat (GWQ) based in
Taiz.

