Yemen Emergency Crisis Response Additional Financing Project  
and  
Yemen Emergency Health and Nutrition Project  

January 17, 2017  

Chair Summary*  

The Executive Directors discussed two IDA grants for emergency projects in the Republic of Yemen: One to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and one to the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO).  

Directors noted that the proposed two emergency IDA operations are innovative in disbursing Bank-financed operations through UN agencies during an ongoing conflict that has resulted in devastating economic and social consequences for the people of Yemen. Directors appreciated the World Bank Group’s efforts to stay engaged in the country and IDA’s support during the ongoing conflict in line with the MENA regional strategy and particularly noting that the development objectives of the two operations are in line with the Yemen Country Engagement Note.  

Directors noted that the proposed Additional Financing to the Yemen Emergency Crisis Response Project (IDA/R2016-0313) will expand coverage and impact of the parent project, and therefore, provide millions more vulnerable Yemenis with short-term employment and access to basic services during conflict. They also noted that this partnership with the UNDP will preserve implementation capacity of two national service delivery programs - namely the Social Fund for Development (SFD) and the Public Works Project (PWP). This may help preserve critical local capacity to deliver community-based services across the country, increase Yemen’s resilience and help with the implementation of future recovery efforts. Directors noted that it is critical that development partners continue to work with local community-based organizations.  

Directors noted that the Yemen Emergency Health and Nutrition Project (IDA/R2016-0312) will contribute to the provision of basic health and essential nutrition services for the benefit of the vulnerable Yemeni children and women. It would also preserve the national implementation capacity which will help maintain the main foundations of the system for a speedy post-conflict recovery of the health system.  

Directors emphasized the need for close attention to urgent implementation, as well as close coordination among all parties implementing these two projects and urged greater integration during implementation to maximize alignment of operations in Yemen. Directors also looked forward to lessons learnt being shared, recognizing the consistency with the recommendations of the fragility, conflict and violence cross cutting solutions areas (FCV-CCSA). In particular, Directors urged that lessons be shared with respect to coordination with the UN during both preparation and implementation.  

The Executive Directors approved the proposed Grant to the UNDP for the Additional Financing to the Yemen Emergency Crisis Response Project in the amount of SDR184.7 million (US$250 million equivalent), and the proposed Grant to the UNICEF and the WHO for the Yemen Emergency Health and Nutrition Project in the amount of SDR147.8 million (US$200 million equivalent).  

The Board approved the application of the Fiduciary Principles Accord to the IDA-financed Additional Financing of the Yemen Emergency Crisis Response Project.  

The Board also approved the Waiver of the Anti-Corruption Guidelines to UN Agencies and the Waiver of IDA Commitment Charge for the Yemen Emergency Health and Nutrition Project.  

*This summary is not an approved record.