

## WORLD BANK GROUP ENGAGEMENT IN YEMEN

The World Bank Group has a longstanding relationship with Yemen. The former Yemen Arab Republic and People's Democratic Republic of Yemen joined the World Bank Group's International Development Association (IDA) in 1971. From 1971 to 1994, IDA approved **93** projects for Yemen, valued at about **US\$1.09 billion**. Assistance to the newly unified Yemen increased substantially in the aftermath of the civil war, and since 1995, IDA has approved **58** projects totaling **US\$2.16 billion** and has provided substantial analytical and technical support.

Although the World Bank Group's operations in Yemen encompass a wide variety of sectors, several innovative projects are being undertaken in the field of **Social Development** – particularly towards supporting CSOs engagement in development.

- *CSO Mapping and Capacity Assessment* study of **3451 Development-Oriented Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)** in the **five governorates of Sana'a, Aden, Taiz, Hadramout, and Hodeidah** was conducted by the World Bank Group in 2013 at the request of the Government of Yemen's Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC).

*Government-CSO Partnership Project* currently under implementation aims to **promote sustainable reforms and state building in Yemen** through providing technical assistance to both the Government of Yemen and Yemeni Civil Society Organizations. The project seeks to **facilitate dialogue and inform the formulation of a joint Government-CSOs Partnership and Mutual Accountability Framework (PMAF)**. Through **capacity assessment and targeted technical assistance** at the sector level, the project will help **operationalize the PMAF on a pilot basis** aiming to **improve development programs' results and promote more inclusive reform policies**. The project has **three components** – (i) the Knowledge for Development Partnership; (ii) the Partnership and Mutual Accountability for Improved Participation and Inclusion; and (iii) Sector Action Plans for Improved Development Results and Capacity Building Activities. *Yemen Civil Society Organization Support Project*, to begin implementation in 2014, aims to **strengthen transparency and governance in the CSO sector and enhance CSO capacity in supporting social accountability and development**. The project will aim to achieve this by: (i) increasing transparency and ease of entry in the CSO sector and by supporting the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor in building sustainable channels of outreach and consultations with CSOs as well as MoSAL-CSO dialogue on reforming the legal and institutional framework. It will also (ii) provide *CSOs Capacity Building through Classroom-based training and Small Grants for Action Learning*. Proposed activities under this component will consist of (a) classroom-based training on social accountability approaches and tools, and (b) a competitive small grants program for action learning and field-based mentoring for integrating social accountability mechanisms into CSO's work.

Projects under preparation stage:

*North-South Corridor Highway Project (US\$150 million)*: seek to decrease travel time, vehicle operating costs, and traffic fatalities, between Aden and Taiz.

- ***Mocha Wind Park Project (US\$20 million)***: increase the supply of cost-effective renewable wind electricity by supporting the construction of a wind farm at Mocha.
- ***Climate Resilience of Rural Communities Project (US\$18.6 million)***: increase the resilience of the rural population to the impact of climate change through improved natural resource management.

**Synopsis of some results achieved through World Bank Group investments to date:**

**Third Public Works Project (US\$149.8 million)**

- Over **3,900 sub-projects**, including **1,950 financed by IDA**, created in various sectors, and mainly education, health, water and sanitation, roads, agriculture, vocational training, and social security. These are benefitting over **14.7 million poor people**, of whom **80 percent live in rural areas**. The project has reached about **68 percent of Yemen's rural poor**.
- Almost **1,900 local contractors** and **1,250 local consultants** have been given new work and development opportunities.
- **Education sector**: overall enrollment increased by **141 percent for males and 181 percent for females**. The **number of classrooms increased by 124 percent** and **classroom sizes decreased by 17 percent**.
- **Health sector**: immunization increased by **62 percent** and **childbirth under medical supervision reached 31 percent**.
- **Water sector**: approximately **29 percent increase in the number of houses supplied with clean water**.

**Taiz Municipal Development & Flood Protection Project (US\$119 million)**

- **Ten kilometers of open channel; 21km of covered channel; 85km of stone and asphalt paved roads**, which improved flow of traffic within the city and reduced congestion; **54km of sewer line; 21 sedimentation traps; and 3.2km of above-street-level retaining walls**.
- The **number of deaths per year reduced from an average of six people per year to zero**; contributed to **improved and safer pedestrian and vehicular access for thousands of people** living at the wadi banks.
- **Reduction in the yearly maintenance costs** of public services such as telephone, power, water and sewer networks and roads.
- **An increase in land values by more than 100 percent**.

**Education Programs contributing to access and quality (US\$133 million)**

- Increase in **primary education enrollment to 87 percent in 2008-09 from 68 percent in 1998-99**. Gains in girls' enrollment were even higher with an increase to **78 percent in 2008-09 from 49 percent in 1998-99**, reducing by half the gap with male enrollment.
- Increased access to education for children in rural Yemen, adding an additional **3,866 classrooms built between 2001 and 2009**.
- Fast Track Initiative (Phase 1) projects **constructed 110 schools and rehabilitated 40 existing schools**, increasing the total enrolment in targeted governorates by **3 percentage points** and the gross enrolment rate for girls by **5 percentage points**. Phase two also **constructed 102 schools, and rehabilitated 39 schools**, again helping increase the enrolment rate by **2 percentage points**.

- **Ninety percent of teachers in grades 1-6** participated in annual refresher training between 2001 and 2006 and **over 90,000 teachers in basic education have been trained** between 2006 and 2010. Contributed to an improvement in the **Grade 6 primary completion rate**, with the rate for girls growing to **51 percent in 2008/2009 from 38 percent in 2000/2001** and the total rate increasing to **62 percent in 2008/2009 from 58 percent in 2000/2001**;
- Starting in 2007, authorities committed to contract and train female teachers over a three-year period. According to Minister of Education, **1,000 new female teachers contracted in 2008**.
- More than **30,000 girls** received conditional cash transfers to support their school attendance.

#### **Sana'a Basin Water Management Project (US\$24 million)**

- **This was the first initiative in the country** to address the crisis in groundwater depletion.
- Reduced agricultural groundwater use of about **4,000 hectares of irrigated area** and **increased groundwater recharge**, which saved more than **15 million cubic meters of water** annually extracted from the local aquifer.

#### **Social Fund for Development (SFD) (US\$225 million)**

- **Half of beneficiaries are female** and about **12 percent of SFD-affected households are led by a woman** (compared with 7.2 percent national average of households headed by women).
- Under SFD's third phase alone, the Community Development Program's support included **building and rehabilitating 7,606 classrooms**, which in turn **benefits 684,046 children**.
- Successful in **training 220 health care institute cadres and 1,992 health care workers**, **building 187 water harvesting systems**, **carrying out 114 hygiene and environmental awareness campaigns**, and **building 92 feeder roads benefiting 531,810 people**.
- Of the **US\$9.1 million grant** allocated to the workfare program from the **Global Food Crisis Response Program Trust Fund**, **US\$6.7 million** has been paid as wages which **benefited 40,813 people (16,820 households)**. The program also provided needed basic infrastructure to needy communities in the fields of **irrigation, water harvesting, soil protection, and agricultural terraces rehabilitation**.