



YEMEN

Disaster Preparedness, Management and Recovery Programme

Disaster Context

Disaster Preparedness, Management and Recovery is one of the thematic areas of the Yemen Government-UNDP Country Cooperation Frameworks that stretch from 1997 to 2006. The programme envisages a sustainable reduction in disaster risk to communities in multi-hazard prone areas of Yemen. A variety of components are proposed, which share a common aim to build national capacity, particularly through training. The key tasks are to initiate disaster planning, to assess risks and post-disaster needs, and to implement disaster risk reduction and recovery measures.

Project Title

Disaster Preparedness, Management and Recovery (YEM/97/500)

Sectors

- Capacity-building
- Public awareness generation and training
- Multi-hazard preparedness, response, and mitigation planning
- Mainstreaming of disaster management into development plans
- Knowledge networking
- Institutional strengthening

Funding

The overall budget is \$2.6 million. UNDP contributed \$750,000 from TRAC 1.1.3 funds. The remaining is to be mobilised from non-core resources, including bilateral sources and government cost sharing.

Partners

- Ministry of Planning and Development
- Ministry of Interior-Civil Defence General

Department

- Central state and local governments
- National- and state-level training institutions
- Other national-level institutions
- UN Disaster Thematic Group
- Local and international NGOs working in the country (Yemeni Red Crescent, Oxfam, Medecins Sans Frontieres, etc.)

Programme Activities

The programme aims to strengthen disaster preparedness, management, response, and mitigation plans of communities, local governments, and district authorities all over the country. Specifically, it will support government efforts to:

- Help communities prepare contingency plans and train task forces for various activities in 20 governorates
- Form disaster management committees and teams at village, district, state, and national levels, including their approval and legal institutionalisation
- Facilitate disaster drills at all levels in September and May every year
- Prepare a disaster management plan, framework, and policy for the country and states, and facilitate sensitisation of all stake holders on disaster management
- Prepare and execute a National Training Plan for Disaster Management, including manuals and material for awareness, training and mainstreaming of disaster management in all training and school curricula
- Develop a national database on disaster risk management, a disaster resources network portal and risk and vulnerability indices for the country and states

- Facilitate technology transfer in various sectors, such as disaster-resistant constructions, etc
- Hold consultations and studies in disaster risk management and global climate change linkages

However, due to a cumbersome executing structure and institutional set up, in addition to a variety of other reasons, including indecisiveness on which ministry would manage the overall disaster management functions, the UNDP-assisted programme has been stalled for the last four years. This explains the urgency of both the Government of Yemen and UNDP to re-start the process before a major distress strikes. Recently the Government made a decision to install the Disaster Management Unit at the Ministry of Interior.

Within this context, the UNDP Country Office fielded the BCPR-RBAS Regional Officer to Yemen on a 10-day inception/fact-finding mission (21-31 January 2002) aimed at finding the most efficient and effective ways to kick off the programme. The mission resulted in plans to make arrangement to begin the actual implementation of the programme in the coming months.