

REBUILDING LIVES IN YEMEN

April 2017



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THE CRISIS Already one of the poorest countries in the Arab region, Yemen's situation worsened considerably amid escalating armed conflict in 2015. In a country of 27 million people, tens of thousands have been killed or injured while 3 million are internally displaced. Food supplies have been disrupted, causing widespread hunger, acute malnutrition, stunting, and sometimes death—even as prices surge, incomes plunge or vanish, and people are forced to buy food and other basic supplies on credit. The crisis is threatening Yemen's future, with millions of children at grave risk.

- Two out of three Yemenis are “food insecure,” meaning they lack reliable access to enough food to stay healthy.
- 2.2 million children are acutely malnourished.
- More than half of Yemeni households are buying food on credit, while 70% of small and medium enterprises have laid off half of their workers.
- Before the crisis, Yemen relied on imports for 90% of staple foods. Conflict and damaged infrastructure have now sharply reduced food imports.
- Half of Yemen's medical facilities have stopped functioning, with only 30% of medications imported before the conflict now available.

UNDP'S RESPONSE Swift delivery of aid, along with urgent recovery and development work, can halt an approaching famine and strengthen Yemeni communities against future shocks. UNDP Yemen has responded by scaling up cash-for-work and other support to communities to directly boost the local economy. We are helping people get back to work so they can become self-sufficient again, helping restore basic services such as health care, and contributing to peace-building. UNDP is also supporting UN political efforts to prepare for implementation of an eventual peace deal.

Our work includes an innovative partnership among UNDP, other UN agencies, and the World Bank to support hundreds of thousands of Yemenis—including women, youth, and internally displaced people—through cash-for-work, improved public services, revitalized small and medium enterprises, jobs, social services, health care and nutrition, and repairs to critical infrastructure.

- We are working with our partners to implement projects worth US\$342 million.
- More than 100 UNDP staff are working with a network of partners on the ground, in all 22 governorates.

- In 2016, we cleared more than 3 million square meters of mines and other explosives, benefitting one out of every 20 Yemenis—and smoothing the path to economic recovery for the whole country.
- We helped train more than 300,000 people on how to reduce mine risk.
- We are helping restore services, small infrastructure, and livelihoods.
- We are getting cash assistance to the worst-affected women and families, hiring young people as health advocates, and helping farmers, fishermen, and livestock producers fully resume production.
- In rural areas, we are helping stabilize livelihoods, restore basic services, resolve conflicts, and improve access to sustainable energy.

In the coming two years, UNDP's work will benefit:

- 410,000 people directly and nearly 2 million indirectly, with cash-for-work programs
- 2.5 million people through restored community services such as water and sanitation.
- 27,000 agriculture and fishery businesses and health-care providers
- 85,000 women and children through nutrition programs
- 250,000 people through removal of landmines and other explosives.



As part of an innovative partnership between World Bank and UNDP, participants of the Public Works Program are restoring a water reservoir in Hajja, Yemen.

Concerted, collective action is vital to tackle the crisis in Yemen, where people struggle daily to survive with dignity. With our longstanding partnerships and networks, UNDP is ideally positioned to mobilize quickly and coordinate for maximum long-term impact. We are committed to working with development and humanitarian partners to support recovery and build resilience that will allow Yemeni communities to better withstand future shocks and crises. Together, these will revitalize communities and economies, securing food supplies and allowing the people of Yemen to look to the future with hope.

IN FOCUS: STABILIZING ADEN, ABYAN, AND LAHJ



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BACKGROUND Since March 2015, 2 million Yemenis have become internally displaced, straining dwindling public and private resources in host communities and aggravating local tensions. Some 87% of formerly displaced people have returned to 33 districts, in clear “pockets of return.” . Whether this population can remain will depend on their prospects for security and economic and social reintegration.

Of five districts hosting the largest numbers of returnees, four are in Aden Governorate. Aden has been free of major combat operations since July 2015, but local governance and service delivery, including security and rule of law, are weak. The city remains heavily damaged from conflict and local authorities have yet to restore basic services. Female returnees face increased risk of sexual and gender-based violence, child marriages, and trafficking, and they must overcome significant cultural barriers to earn vital income to support their families. In the neighbouring governorates of Abyan and Lahj, security is even more precarious, threatening an overall fragile peace in this region.

UNDP has identified an urgent need for stabilization in all three governorates to reintegrate civilians and help local institutions deliver basic services. This approach aims to achieve functional stability through

- Security and rule of law
- Improved local administration
- Livelihoods
- Delivery of basic services

UNDP has also identified a need to understand better the dynamic of conflicts in this region, devise appropriate stabilization interventions, and form effective local partnerships. By helping improve protection of this conflict-affected population and their livelihoods, UNDP aims to establish a basis for Yemenis to develop local, formal and informal institutions, accountability mechanisms, and approaches to peacebuilding to mitigate and prevent further localized conflict.

WHY NOW Timing is vital to prevent further deterioration in civil society and social cohesion in these governorates. Restoring formal policing and rule of law institutions must build trust and include a capacity to tackle gender-based violence and work with its survivors. Civilian-led, sustainable livelihood opportunities and civic engagement can keep youth from joining extremist armed groups. Short- and medium-term job and entrepreneurship opportunities are essential.

EXPECTED RESULTS When livelihoods, services, local administration, protection, and safety measures are in place and sources of insecurity addressed, perceptions of stability improve, investment in livelihoods and public services increases, and long-term recovery will follow.

IMPLEMENTATION UNDP has an established Sub-Office in Aden and has, alongside other UN agencies, been delivering assistance aimed at building resilience in conflict-affected communities in Aden, Lahj, and Abyan since June 2015. These build on earlier interventions implemented by a trusted network of partners, including local authorities and international and local NGOs. An overall stabilization programme working across all four thematic areas is envisaged for the three governorates. A pilot project focusing on three districts of Aden began in March 2017.

BENEFICIARIES Selection of locations must be transparent to engage stakeholders and maintain accountability. The conflict-affected population, including returnees and local communities, will be primary recipients of support, and districts will be chosen in close consultation with local actors, per clearly established criteria.

PARTNERSHIPS Support from local authorities, community leaders, NGOs, the private sector, and religious figures will be sought at all stages of implementation to ensure local ownership and sustainability. Success in the targeted governorates can serve as a model for other priority locations, leading to replication and a wider promotion of stability.



Women registering to help clean up public sites in Aden