Yemen Resilience Programme

United Nations Development Programme

YEMEN RESILIENCE PROGRAMME

A political, humanitarian and development crisis

Yemen is facing an unprecedented political, humanitarian and development crisis. Yemen’s transition that started in 2011 with the support of the international community tragically unraveled after the conclusion of the National Dialogue Conference and spiraled into a full blown war by March 2015 with little prospect of an immediate peaceful political solution.

The complexity of the conflict between warring factions and shifting alliances have exacerbated social tensions and hostilities around the country. The political instability is fueled by conflict and widespread insecurity, large-scale displacement, internal and international population movements, civil strife, endemic poverty and a breakdown of social and public services.

Yemen has long been a Least Developed Country and the poorest in the Arab region with more than half of the 25 million population already below the poverty line and 8 million people receiving humanitarian assistance before the conflict. Now it is estimated that 21 million people, 80% of the population, are in need of assistance. With civilian casualties rising, Yemeni citizens are suffering from multiple and entrenched hardships.

Investments and development gains from the past are being lost. With the crisis, economic activities have grounded to a near standstill and are negatively impacted by shortage of fuel, food and basic commodities due to the blockade on imports. The massive destruction of socio-economic infrastructure and the impact of the escalating conflict on lives and livelihoods will have grave consequences for longer-term development.

The remarkable resilience of the Yemeni population that endured decades of underdevelopment is now tested to its limits and will continue to deteriorate if left unaddressed. People, communities, public and private institutions need support to cope and build resilience towards peace and recovery. Restoring and strengthening resilience in families, communities and institutions from the start is urgent and as essential as political dialogue and humanitarian relief.

PROGRAMME STRATEGY

UNDP’s strategy for Yemen is to build resilience by supporting communities and key institutions to lay the foundation for recovery and state-building.

The objective of the Yemen Resilience Programme is to restore livelihoods, social cohesion and security; and to pave the way for stabilization and recovery towards sustainable development pathways.

KEY OBJECTIVES

1. Strengthen community-based structures and systems and restore basic and social services to ensure they are progressively enhanced and accessible to all
2. Increase opportunities for livelihoods and self-reliance through emergency employment, recovery and development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and social businesses
3. Enhance community security, informal justice mechanisms, community-based dialogue and social cohesion
4. Clear mines and unexploded ordnance prioritizing essential social infrastructure, residential areas and agricultural lands for vulnerable populations

For more information: www.undp.org/ undp.org/yemencrisis
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TIMEFRAME

The programme will be implemented over two years (2016-2018) and is designed to provide the foundation for long-term peace, development and a new social compact to emerge.

APPROACH

The programme follows a theory of change whereby resilience is built from the bottom-up using local systems, capacities and institutions as much as possible. In the current context, increasing local resilience at community level is deemed the most effective way of limiting, in the short term, the continuous degradation of people’s living conditions and reliance on humanitarian assistance.

EVIDENCE-BASE

UNDP Yemen has carried out and has a number of assessments underway, in coordination and partnership with UN system agencies, to ensure evidence-based programming, including:

- Conflict development analysis, nation-wide.
- Rapid assessment of local government and services in Sana’a, Abyan, Aden, Hajjah, Sa’ada and Taizz.
- Waste management assessment completed in Aden, Amran, Hajjah, Mukalla, Sa’ada and Sana’a.
- Business survey conducted in Sa’ada, Hajjah, Sana’a, Taizz, Aden and Abyan.
- UNDP “Voices of Yemen”, community level consultations in Sana’a, Taizz, Hadhramout, Hajjah, Sa’ada, and Ibb.
- Integrated early recovery and livelihoods assessment in Sana’a, Hajjah, Sa’ada, Taizz, Aden, Abyan.
- Sensemaker survey, 1200 stories from Sana’a, Hajjah, Sa’ada, Taizz, Aden, Abyan.
- Damage Needs Assessment as part of UN/WB/EU/IsDB partnership.

IMPLEMENTATION

UNDP will use risk-analysis and conflict-sensitive parameters throughout the implementation of its programme. In the likely scenario of a protracted, complex and volatile conflict, the programme will be adjusted according to risks and varying conditions across geographical areas and over time.

Programme implementation will build on UNDP’s established presence and partnerships with national and international partners. UNDP has assessed and vetted select NGOs from its roster of partners to support community-level implementation.

The backbone of UNDP’s risk management measures is UNDP’s presence and partners operating in Abyan, Aden, Hajjah, Sa’ada, Sana’a and Taizz for project implementation, monitoring and oversight, which will be complemented by a third party monitoring system composed of NGOs and experts that will undertake quality assurance functions on behalf of UNDP.

To minimize financial risk, UNDP will rely on qualified accounting firms to conduct spot-checks and review financial transactions in line with approved work plans.

COVERAGE

The resilience programme has started in six governorates - Abyan, Aden, Hajjah, Sa’ada, Sana’a and Taizz - where UNDP has established presence and partnerships and where assessments are underway. The programme will be expanded to other governorates as and when conditions improve.

ACTIVITIES
BENEFICIARIES

UNDP will target its support to the most vulnerable population. Important considerations for targeting support include readiness of communities and local institutions for resilience and peace building, acceptance of local powers and political actors for indiscriminate support to the most vulnerable – particularly women and girls – and respect for human rights, security and access to target communities.

ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS

The resilience programme takes a community-based approach, in which communities and stakeholders decide their priorities, as established in community integrated resilience plans. The programme will use inclusive and participatory practices to identify needs, build capacities and empower communities to create the foundation for sustained and meaningful participation throughout all phases of the response.

PARTNERSHIPS

UNDP is working in coordination with Yemeni Government Institutions, civil society organizations, the private sector and international partners to support the people of Yemen.

UNDP is collaborating with UN agencies operational in Yemen and will continue to pursue synergetic interventions across humanitarian and development domains.

A resilience based approach

Resilience is defined as the ability of households, communities, and societies to withstand shocks and stresses, recover from such stresses, and work with government to achieve transformational change for sustainability.

Principles guiding UNDP’s work: humanity, neutrality, impartiality and operational independence, context-specificity, local ownership, commitment to strategic and long-term engagement, conflict sensitivity, human rights-based response and gender equality.

Resilience-building interventions include:

• Local governance: enhancing community structures’ capacities to plan, cope and respond inclusively and effectively to people’s needs.

• Habitat: rehabilitating waste management systems in high impact areas; removing mines and unexploded ordnances; increasing availability of solar-powered electrical supply.

• Services: rehabilitating and equipping education and health facilities damaged by the conflict and/or facing Internally Displaced Persons influx.

• Economy: stabilizing livelihoods through labor intensive schemes i.e. emergency employment through cash for work; distribution of assets; small grants and asset replacement to micro and small businesses, in particular social businesses; skills training for unemployed youth, women and other vulnerable groups.

• Social cohesion: meeting urgent justice and protection needs of vulnerable groups; supporting insider mediation and community-based reconciliation mechanisms; as well as other community security measures.