

Yemen Improved Water Management and Irrigation for Sustainability and Efficiency Project (I-WISE)

The IWISE Project is expected to be launched in the second half of 2026 as Phase 1 of a larger ten-year Multiphase Programmatic Approach supported by the World Bank Group to address Yemen's water scarcity and food insecurity. With a total US\$ 150 million grant with UNDP managing \$78,670,000 for components 1 and 2 of the project.

The project aims to strengthen climate resilience and water security for vulnerable populations in the Aden-Tuban and Wadi Hajir basins.

The project is jointly implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS):

- UNDP leads the development of a national Climate and Water Information Management System, the improvement of integrated watershed management, and the expansion of climate-resilient agricultural irrigation.
- UNOPS leads the restoration and expansion of resilient water supply and sanitation infrastructure, focusing on urban, peri-urban, and internally displaced persons communities.

Objectives

The objective of the project is to strengthen the climate and water information management system in Yemen and enhance climate-resilient irrigation services and access to water supply and sanitation services in selected basins.

Women empowerment

The project strengthens climate and water information systems and early warning mechanisms to better manage droughts, floods, and diseases that disproportionately affect women and girls. It supports women's leadership through targeted skills training, safer and more accessible infrastructure, and expanded opportunities in water governance, irrigation, Cash-for-Work, and climate-smart agriculture across all project components.

Expected results

- A developed and operational National Climate and Water Information Management System.
- 850,000 people benefiting from enhanced resilience to climate risks.
- 475,000 people benefiting from enhanced resilience of terrestrial and aquatic systems.
- 375,000 people benefiting from climate-resilient infrastructure.
- 15,500 hectares of landscapes under enhanced conservation and/or sustainable management.
- 7,500 hectares of agricultural land area provided with climate-resilient irrigation and/or drainage services.

Government counterparts/partners

- Ministry of Water and Environment
- Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation & Fisheries
- Civil Aviation and Meteorological Authority
- Geological Survey and Mineral Resources Authority
- National Water Resources Authority
- University Research Centers

Implementing partners

- Social Fund for Development
- Public Works Projects
- Urban Water Supply and Sanitation – Project Management Unit

The IWISE Project is built on a strong foundation of national partnership and institutional strengthening to ensure long-term sustainability. Key highlights include:

Institutional capacity support:

UNDP is leading the development of the National Climate and Water Information Management System, with a clear roadmap to transfer its full management and ownership to the Ministry of Water and Environment.

Government collaboration:

To ensure data integration and policy alignment, the IWISE project works in close coordination with key national entities, including the National Water Resources Authority, the Civil Aviation and Meteorological Authority, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Fisheries.

Localized technical empowerment:

IWISE provides specialized training to technical staff, ensuring that local experts have the skills to operate and maintain climate-monitoring infrastructure and decision-support tools by partnering with academic institutions like Aden and Hadhramaut universities.

Community-led governance:

IWISE strengthens Water User Associations and Water Basin Committees empowering them to manage their resources effectively and adapt to climate challenges.