

# UNDP Results

## Yemen



## Approach

Yemen is one of the poorest countries in the Arab region and faces multiple challenges, including one of the highest population growth rates in the world, an insufficient rate of economic growth, high unemployment and widespread poverty, the rapid depletion of ground water and oil reserves, as well as weak governance. Acknowledging these difficulties, even during the Saada War in the northern part of the country, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has committed to working with the people and the Government of Yemen to help them face and overcome these challenges.

## RESULTS

### Democratic governance

In 2009, UNDP achieved results in a number of key areas to strengthen democracy, including decentralization, human rights, government transparency, elections and the improvement of aid effectiveness. Highlights of our work in these areas include:

- In partnership with the UN Capital Development Fund, UNDP assisted the Government of Yemen draft a national strategy that specifically aims to strengthen local governance. The strategy, approved by the Government, places people at the centre of development and gives more authority to local councils at district and governorate levels.

- Trained members of 18 local councils in the process of local planning and budgeting. As a result, a budgeting and reporting model has been approved by the Ministry of Finance and will be soon adopted nationwide.

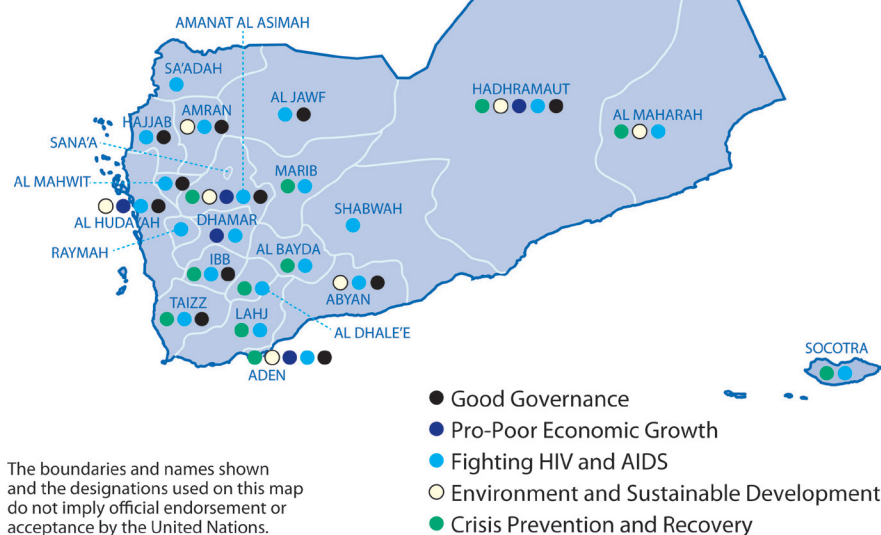
- Provided technical support to five radio stations and trained 50 journalists on investigative reporting on transparency and corruption cases. The training has since led to the publishing of several articles, and local radio and television broadcasts on fighting corruption.

- Funded a course for the management and staff of Yemen's Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum on best practices for election systems and electoral information.

This will benefit the discussions on the reform of the electoral system currently under consideration.

- The installation of an aid information management system at the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation as a way to keep track of incoming aid from national and international donors and align expenditures in support of the national development priorities; UNDP also trained staff in the use of the system.

## YEMEN



## UNDP Activities in Yemen: 2009

Theme	Funders	Total Amount US\$ Millions*
<b>Democratic Governance</b>	France, Italy, The Netherlands, United Kingdom (UK), Yemen, European Union (EU), UK Department for International Development, USAID, UNCDF, UNDP	5.0
<b>Pro-Poor Economic Growth</b>	Italy, UK, The Netherlands, UNDP	0.8
<b>Environment and Sustainable Development</b>	Italy, Yemen, Canadian International Development Agency, Canadian Nexen Petroleum, UNDP, Global Environment Facility	1.0
<b>Crisis Prevention and Recovery</b>	Belgium, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Yemen, EU, UNDP, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	3.2
<b>HIV and AIDS</b>	Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria	3.7
<b>Total</b>		<b>13.8</b>

\* Source: UNDP Yemen, provisional figures as of 7 March 2010

### Pro-poor economic growth

UNDP has been supporting the Government of Yemen's effort to diversify its economy and minimize dependency on the oil sector. With the support of our partners, including the Government, we have brought about real results in improving key sectors of Yemen's economy, including fishery, agriculture and trade.

- As part of an effort to improve the supply chain for fishery products and facilitate access to foreign markets, UNDP trained more than 700 fishermen on technical and hygiene quality control; trained 60 quality-control managers in the seafood industry on food safety procedures needed to access foreign markets; established a fishery quality control laboratory and trained 80 people to staff it; and completed a baseline study on the effect of heavy metals on fish for the first time in two decades.
- In order to minimize the rejection of fruit and vegetable products from entering Saudi Arabia and other Gulf country markets, UNDP trained more than 100 farming communities and agricultural Extension Officers in quality control, and provided the Extension Officers with portable quality control kits; supported the establishment of a central laboratory for quality control for fruits and vegetables and the elaboration of procedures for the issuance of quality export certificate.
- UNDP funded the establishment of an e-registration system for private companies at the Ministry of Industry and Trade. It reduced the time and red-tape needed that new companies

must undergo to register, from 60 days to 5 days, and from 68 procedures down to 16, while at the same time improving overall transparency of the procedure. As a consequence, Yemen continued to improve in the global rankings on the ease of doing business and jumped further four positions in 2010, ranking as the world's 99th business reformer out of 183, according to the World Bank's *Doing Business 2010* report.

### Environment and sustainable development

- Environment conservation and sustainable development are critical for the future peaceful development of the country. In this area, UNDP has achieved the following results:
- By 2009, supported the establishment of six natural protected areas managed by local communities that contribute to preserve the unique biodiversity and endangered species in Socotra (2003), Aden Wetlands (2007), Hawf (2008), Jabal Bura'a (2007) and the Rosh marine protected area (2009) while providing a source of income for the local community involved in a variety of eco-tourism activities.
- Provided technical and financial support for the development of the Hadhramout and Tuban-Abyan Water Basin management plans; the implementation of the plan will improve water management in a very arid area of the country and access to water for three governorates and 1,263,000 people.

### Crisis Prevention and Recovery

In 2009 the UNDP-sponsored Mine Action Programme:

- Cleared 47,111 mines from over three square kilometres, enabling the land to be used for farming and other livelihoods.
- Provided medical assistance and orthopedic support to 604 mine victims and provided mine risk education to 128,000 people (49,523 of whom were women) in 112 villages targeted for mine risk education;
- Destroyed 95 anti-personnel mines, 27 anti-tanks mines and 36,989 unexploded ordinances.

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