

# Yemen

## Context

Yemen is the poorest country in the Middle East. Its many challenges include high population growth, deteriorating economic prospects, political tensions and conflict, and weak governance. Yemen is off track on many of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Poverty is widespread with 47% of the population living on less than \$2 a day.

Yemen already had significant humanitarian needs even before the current political crisis with over 300,000 IDPs in Northern Yemen. Recent conflict has generated at least an additional 100,000 IDPs, primarily in the South. The crisis has also seen a severe decline in the Yemeni economy which has increased poverty, hunger and generated additional humanitarian needs.

## Key Facts

- Population: 23.6 million
- GNI per capita: \$1060
- Life expectancy: 63 years
- The adult literacy rate is 61%
- Net enrolment in primary education: 73%
- 56 children out of 1000 die before their fifth birthday
- 32% of Yemen's population is undernourished

*All statistics provided by the United Nations*

## DFID Response

DFID has a key role to play in addressing the many challenges facing Yemen. DFID's programme supports HMG's strategic objective to prevent state failure in Yemen and also contributes to the objective to reduce the threat from terrorism through addressing grievances that fuel support for extremist groups. Key immediate priorities are to support the political transition process started under the GCC Initiative and to respond to the critical escalation in humanitarian needs. Because of the recent instability some elements of our programme are on hold where they are unable to deliver planned results.



Over half Mazrak (Hajjah) camp's residents are children under 18-years old, many of them are malnourished - © Hugh Macleod/IRIN

## DFID Programme

DFID Yemen's programme is organised under four pillars. This year we expect to spend £30 million. Last years spend was £51 million.

**Poverty, Hunger and Vulnerability** – The Yemeni Social Fund for Development (SFD), of which DFID is a major contributor, continues to improve access to basic services, such as education, health and water for one third of the Yemeni population (around 7 million people). In addition, SFD's Labour Intensive Works Programme provides poor and vulnerable Yemenis with vital cash assistance. DFID has disbursed £8.5 million to SFD's Phase IV in FY 2011/12.

**Governance and Security** – DFID contributed £1.5m to a UNDP led package of support to the Presidential elections on 21st February – a key milestone in the GCC Initiative transition process. We are currently scoping other interventions to support the transition process.

**Wealth Creation** – Our programme with the IFC, which provided £8.9m in support over the last three years, has recently been extended to 2012. It focuses on private sector development including increasing access to finance and training entrepreneurs in business management skills. We are looking at other interventions to support the development of Yemen's private sector.

**Humanitarian** – This year we are providing a package of £20m of humanitarian assistance delivered through programmes with UNICEF, UN OCHA's Emergency Response Fund (ERF), ICRC and a Consortium of International NGOs.

In addition to programmes set out above DFID also funds the Chatham House Yemen Forum which undertakes research, provides political analysis and facilitates dialogue with key stakeholders.