

Summary of DFID's work in Yemen 2012-2015

August 2012

Why we work in Yemen

Yemen is the poorest nation in the Middle East, and faces a range of deep-seated development challenges including high levels of poverty, food insecurity, high population growth, a weak economy and poor social service provision. It is unlikely to meet any of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). On-going conflict in the north and the south of the country has displaced hundreds of thousands of civilians and means some areas of the country are not under effective government control.

These development challenges were compounded by political crisis sparked by widespread demonstrations against the former regime in 2011 and an upsurge in conflict. This resulted in a further deterioration of the economy and a humanitarian crisis marked by high levels of malnutrition and child mortality and outbreaks of infectious diseases.

Yemen entered a period of political transition in February 2012 with the election of a new president. The transition, though fragile and far from assured, is the best chance in a generation to make progress towards a more secure and prosperous future for Yemen. Even with a successful transition, the development challenge will remain enormous, and the security situation remains serious in many parts of the country, in particular the south. Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) represents a significant local, regional and international threat.

What we will achieve

- 300,000 people provided with emergency food assistance in 2012/13
- 170,000 people provided with essential health services in 2012/13
- 1.65 million women and children protected from malnutrition between 2012-15
- 42,000 people per year provided with paid work on public projects between 2012-15
- successful constitutional and presidential elections supported in 2013 and 2014
- 44,700 people (60% women) between 2012-2015 provided with access to finance to enable them to work their way out of poverty
- 2,700 new jobs created in private sector between 2012-15



The Minister of State Alan Duncan visiting a DFID-funded Social Fund for Development vocational training centre for women and kindergarten (Photo: DFID)

Who we will work with

DFID Yemen is located in the British Embassy in Sana'a and in DFID's London office. We work closely with colleagues across the UK Government including the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Ministry of Defence (MOD) to deliver the UK strategy in Yemen, which has development and diplomacy at its heart.

We are working with the Government of Yemen to support them in delivering a successful transition and to ensure that our programme is consistent with Yemen's priorities. The UK will continue to work with our partners in the region, and in particular Gulf donors, to ensure coordinated international community support to tackle Yemen's short and long term development challenges. We will deliver results by working in partnership with multilateral organisations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in Yemen.



Women queuing to vote in Sana'a. UK aid provided key support to the historic presidential election in February 2012. (photo: Claire Fitzroy)

How we will work

More than ever, in the current financial climate, we have a duty to show that we are achieving value for money (VfM) in everything we do. Results, transparency and accountability are at the heart of our programme in Yemen and we are determined to get value for money for every taxpayer pound spent on development.

The security situation and the limited presence of DFID staff in Yemen means that monitoring and evaluation of our programme is challenging, and we have a limited range of partners through whom we channel assistance. Despite these challenges, DFID Yemen has delivered good VfM to date. This has been achieved through careful selection of partners who have a strong record of delivery, including multilateral organisations such as the United Nations and World Bank, trusted international organisations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross, Save the Children and Islamic Relief, and the Yemeni Social Fund for Development. We will use the findings of DFID's Multilateral Aid Review to push for improved performance of our multilateral partners.

The Yemen Programme will deliver value for money and transparency by:

- Developing a strategy to ensure VfM is actively considered at every stage of the programme management cycle
- Publishing clear, concise information about our programmes on the DFID website
- Working with our partners to ensure that value for money considerations are embedded and monitored rigorously during implementation of programmes.

More information

For a more detailed breakdown of Yemen's Operational Plan, please visit www.dfid.gov.uk/yemen

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