

March 5, 2013

FACT SHEET

U.S. Assistance to Yemen's Political Transition

In accordance with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)-brokered political transition initiative, the Yemeni government and people have taken significant steps toward achieving meaningful and peaceful change, including electing a transitional government and preparing to launch a credible National Dialogue process. To fully implement the GCC Initiative, the Yemeni government and people are now working to (1) begin the National Dialogue, (2) commence constitutional reform, and (3) undertake electoral reform in preparation for national elections in February 2014.

The United States remains deeply committed to supporting the people of Yemen in carrying out each phase of the process, in cooperation with the international community, including the United Nations. The United States encourages continued partnership and effective coordination of direct and in-kind assistance to Yemen's transitional processes.

The attached table summarizes \$20 million of our ongoing and planned assistance to each phase of the transition. Our assistance programs may shift based on priorities and requests of the Yemeni people, and funding levels might change as additional needs are identified.

- **National Dialogue - \$10.5 million.** In coordination with the National Dialogue General Secretariat, the United States will (1) provide technical and operational assistance to the dialogue offices, working groups and officials; and (2) support civic outreach and engagement.
- **Constitutional Reform and Referendum - \$1.2 million.** Conversations that take place as part of the Dialogue will lay the groundwork for Yemen's constitutional reform process. Supporting civil society organizations (CSOs) and Yemen's Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER), the United States will provide technical assistance on civic outreach, voter education and referendum management.
- **National Elections - \$8.4 million.** President Hadi has reconstituted the SCER, and preparations are underway for national elections to be held in 2014. The United States will provide technical assistance to support election management bodies and CSOs on effective electoral administration and civic outreach. The immediate focus is on activities to improve professionalism and transparency of Yemeni institutions with elections-related responsibilities. Updating Yemen's voter registry is a priority reform. Assistance will also support the inclusion of women in Yemen's elections – as citizens, as advocates, as candidates.

Program activities are described in the attached table. They are managed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Department of State's Middle East Partnerships Initiative (MEPI).

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USG Assistance to Yemen in Support of the Political Transition

Activity Area	Activity Description
NATIONAL DIALOGUE -- \$10.451 million	
Technical and Operational Assistance	
Technical Advisors	Provide working groups with skilled facilitators and issue experts.
Delegate Training & Orientation	(1) Orientation and procedural training for all 565 National Dialogue delegates. (2) Trainings for all political party, women, youth and CSO delegates and working group chairs on communications and citizen engagement, public speaking, media management, conflict resolution and team building.
Gender	Targeted advanced training and sustained mentoring and support for female delegates.
Procurement Support	Support establishment of National Dialogue (ND) Secretariat offices, and additional Secretariat office support in logistics management and procurement – e.g, by furnishing and equipping its head office, operations center, and media center, and by providing support for the secretariat’s transportation needs.
Civic Outreach and Mass Media	
National and Local Forums	Support nationwide forums and support for local CSO-sponsored forums to discuss ND issues and processes. Facilitate working group outreach forums and town hall activities. Conduct public opinion research on ND issues, nationwide TV and radio civic education programming. Monitor public reporting throughout the ND conference. The National Dialogue secretariat and committees will be able to significantly extend their programmatic reach beyond urban centers to the district and village-level in at least eleven governorates (Aden, Abyan, Taizz, Al Dhale’e, Taiz, Marib, Sana’a, Amran, Hajjah, Sa’ada, Al Jawf.)
Mass Media	Media activities to increase transparency, public awareness and civic education, including TV, radio, film, print, internet, Short Message Service (SMS texts), performance and visual art: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Televised town hall forums on ND working group issues, as well as youth policy forums and a cross-party women’s network. • Weekly radio series on the Yemeni government’s network of local stations across six governorates (Sana’a, Hodeida, Aden, Taiz, Lahj, Hadramaut), and support for radio episodes focused on advocacy and awareness around National Dialogue issues. • Youth journalism training. • Youth public service announcements: Support development of youth-directed public service announcements and video documentaries that will be nationally televised, as well as listening and feedback groups.
Local Theater	Use local theater to educate rural Yemeni audiences about key transition issues associated with the National Dialogue and gather grassroots data on citizens’ concerns and possible conflict triggers in five governorates (Sana'a, Aden, Taiz, Hodeidah, Ibb). Programs aim to reach approximately 50,000 people through 50 community theater performances, which will be adapted to radio, expanding their reach to several million listeners.
Grants to Local CSOs	Political Process and Reform Grants: Up to 13 direct small grants working primarily to enhance CSO engagement. These support women, youth and community leaders in advocating for democratic reforms, improving local governance, and using traditional and new media to enhance awareness and participation of underserved populations. Several grants are used for programs in regions outside of Sana’a, such as Taiz, Aden, Hodeidah, Dhahmar and Hajja. Transition Umbrella Grant Fund: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 dialogue grants to CSOs to host local, regional and national issue forums, prioritizing women and youth initiatives. • 20 action grants to CSOs to initiate and respond to ND opportunities, including: expanding citizen/CSO participation, awareness building events, support the Secretariat or Working Groups through outreach and information-sharing as requested by the Secretariat. • 20 reform support grants to promote ND outcomes, increase voter awareness, and educate the Yemeni citizenry in follow up to the formal dialogue plenary. Each grantee

	will work with four smaller civil society groups, particularly in remote areas.
CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM AND REFERENDUM – \$1.175 million	
Technical Assistance	Referendum surveys, domestic monitoring, legal advising for drafting elections legislation, and election dispute resolution assistance. (Assistance level to be determined).
CSO-Led Civic Education	Grants to CSOs for civic education, civic engagement, public awareness and increased transparency regarding constitutional reform and referendum issues. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works across seven governorates (Ibb, Taiz, Aden, Baydah, Shebwa, Hodeidah, and Abyan) to increase CSOs’ community outreach and advocacy work around constitutional and electoral education during Yemen’s political transition. • Support community forums and dialogue.
Media	Media activities to increase transparency, public awareness and civic education, including TV, radio, film, print, internet, SMS, performance and visual art. (Assistance level TBD).
NATIONAL ELECTIONS-- \$8.395 million	
Election Administration & Civic Participation	
Electoral Administration	Series of activities to improve professionalism and transparency of Yemeni institutions with elections-related responsibilities including: voter registry system design, planning and support; support efforts to streamline SCER staff; training on electoral management and process; election security; strategic planning; public outreach, media information and awareness workshops; international technical exchanges; and stakeholder working groups.
Women’s Participation	Support women’s participation in the elections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve political parties’ outreach and engagement with women and assist in the development of platforms more responsive to women’s interests. • Capacity building for female candidates and their campaign teams and cooperation with Yemeni CSOs to ensure outreach and education around voter registration and get out the vote efforts reach women and encourage their participation. • Help establish a cross-party women’s network to advocate for women’s interests
Media and Civic Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media activities to increase transparency, public awareness and civic education, including TV, radio, film, print, internet, SMS, performance and visual art. • Grants to CSOs for civic education, civic engagement, public awareness and increased transparency regarding elections-related issues.
Civic Education; CSO and Political Party Skills Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve civil and political activists' understanding and knowledge of electoral and political processes related to Yemen's transition. • Assist CSOs and political parties to develop policy platforms. • Support Yemeni participation in “regional campaign schools” that provide prospective elections candidates and campaign managers with the knowledge, tools and skills to run more effective and responsive campaigns, as well as increasing the skills and competitiveness of women and youth to stand as candidates and gain experience working on campaigns.