



COUNTRY PROFILE

2006



Two children in Al Jawf in western Yemen show their marked fingers, indicating they have been vaccinated against polio. USAID fought the polio outbreak which hit Yemen in February 2005, with an emergency door-to-door campaign that reached 57,000 children in Al Jawf.

OVERVIEW

Yemen is an important ally in the war on terrorism, and the U.S. government is committed to supporting the country in its efforts to eliminate terrorism. USAID supports those objectives by helping to meet basic needs in health, education, food and economic growth. Yemen remains one of the least developed countries in the world, with 43 percent of the population living under the poverty rate of \$2 per day. USAID works with the government to gain the support of tribal leaders through programs focusing on the five remote tribal governorates of Amran, Sa'ada, Al-Jawf, Marib and Shabwa, which have traditionally had few services and have been sources and havens for terrorism. In these regions, USAID works to increase incomes, improve health and education, and strengthen community roles and democratic institutions.



PROGRAMS

EXPANDING HEALTH CARE FOR MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

Only 25 percent of women have a midwife or other trained person to help them with delivery, and 82 children out of 1,000 die before the age of one. To create lasting changes in the health system, USAID renovates health clinics and other facilities, provides equipment and improves counseling services and community health education. Over the past year, this included training more than 700 health workers in counseling and health education and distributing printed materials. Through mobile health teams, USAID brought health care services to over 20,000 people in remote areas. In addition, USAID trains midwives and improves emergency obstetric and neonatal care. USAID also works with the Ministry of Public Health and Population to improve management systems and increase participation in the polio campaign.

IMPROVING BASIC EDUCATION, ESPECIALLY FOR WOMEN & GIRLS

The Government of Yemen has made the expansion of primary education a priority. Enrollment rates are low. Only 67 percent of boys attend primary school and even fewer girls (40%). Only 29 percent of women can read and write; 69.5 percent of men are literate.

To assist the Government in reforming its education system, USAID has developed new programs to improve the teaching of reading, writing and

YEMEN SNAPSHOT

Date of independence: 1990
Population: 20.7 million (2004)
Income per person: \$570 (yr)
Source: World Bank Development Indicators

USAID IN YEMEN

www.usaid.gov/locations/asia_near_east/countries/yemen

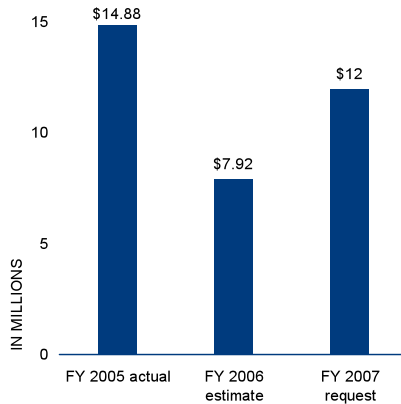


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COUNTRY PROFILE CONTINUED

USAID ASSISTANCE TO YEMEN



Funding Source: Economic Support Funds

For more information, see the
FY2007 Congressional Budget Justification
<http://www.usaid.gov/policy/budget/>

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mathematics and offers adult literacy and life skills classes. Last year, USAID conducted in-service training for more than 1,500 teachers and administrators and provided life-skills and adult literacy programs in 40 communities and schools. USAID also prepares and distributes teaching materials and textbooks, and builds schools in needy communities.

INCREASING INCOMES IN RURAL AREAS

Poverty is pronounced in the remote areas where USAID works. The unemployment rate as of 2003 was 35 percent, with most people employed in agriculture and herding. To increase incomes in rural areas, USAID will be helping small farmers, especially women, grow crops, raise animals and find markets for their products. To provide further training for farmers and farm-related businesses, USAID encourages reform by collaboration with the Yemeni Ministry of Agriculture. USAID trains staff at the local and national offices of the Ministry to help them improve their services for poor farmers. Assistance is also used to provide grants for businesses development working in the agriculture sector.

USAID works with the U.S. Embassy to identify trade opportunities and to expand access to regional and international markets. In addition, USAID helps improve border and customs processes to regulate livestock trade and inspection services for animals arriving from the Horn of Africa.

STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

Yemen's government ranks below the 25th percentile globally in its effectiveness. This low ranking is indicative of much needed reform within the Government. USAID works with reform-minded members of parliament and committees to strengthen their skills to improve legislation; identify policy priorities; and work in coalitions, constituency outreach, media relations and executive oversight. In the upcoming September 2006 elections, USAID will support the voter registration monitoring process.

USAID also supports a tribal conflict mitigation program designed to assist tribal leaders in their efforts to resolve longstanding conflicts that cause senseless violence and delay much needed democratic, economic and educational reforms. Other tribal conflict mitigation activities include working with tribal youth to promote peaceful resolutions to conflict through dialogue, outreach and an anti-violence youth campaign. In addition, USAID assists the Government's decentralization efforts in health and education by training officials at the governorate and district levels in planning, budgeting and management.