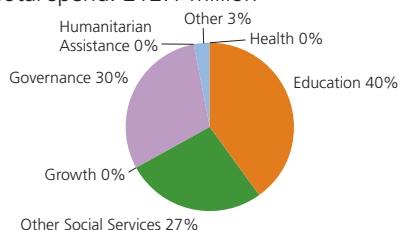


Yemen

Indicator	Proportion of population below \$1 a day	Net enrolment in primary education	Ratio of girls to boys in primary education	Under 5 mortality ratio	Maternal mortality ratio	HIV prevalence, 15-49 years old	Improved water source
Current assessment	Red	Green	Green	Amber	Amber	Grey	Red

Bilateral aid by sector, 2008-09

Total spend: £12.1 million



Yemen is a fragile state facing considerable challenges as it responds to increased threats from terrorism, fall-out from declining oil revenue and water resources and a need to improve governance and economic opportunity. It is the only low-income country (LIC) in the Middle East, and is under-aided by the donor community. Our assistance is part of a broader HMG strategy aimed at economic development and promoting stability. We have scaled up our programme from £12m in 2008 to £20m this year, and plan to increase our investment significantly over the next few years.

MDG 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

The latest reliable figures show that 34.8% of Yemeni's live under the national poverty line¹ and this figure will have increased due to rising food prices. In terms of food security, 46% of children under 5 are underweight for their age² and 12.5% of individuals cannot meet their basic food needs³.

DFID has scaled up its support to Yemen in recognition of the severe poverty and stability challenges the country faces and in 2008, we cemented this commitment by signing a ten year **Development Partnership Arrangement (DPA)** with the Government of Yemen. The DPA emphasises partnership, mutual obligation and sets clear targets for poverty reduction, and is the first of its kind in the Middle East.

DFID provided £2.54m to the **UN World Food programme** to deliver food to displaced people in northern areas of Yemen affected by conflict. This has ensured that around **100,000 beneficiaries received a full basket of food through monthly distributions**. DFID supports Yemen's **Social Development Fund (SFD)**, providing £63m for the period from 2004 to 2010. SFD runs health, education, and infrastructure projects that bring services and access to micro-credit for the poor. In rural areas, **school enrolment in SFD areas has increased by 91% for boys, and 122% for girls**⁴. The **percentage of children below 2 years with completed immunization has increased from 31% to 60% since 2003**⁵. In **2008, there were 33,554 active borrowers of micro credit provided by SFD** demonstrating an annual growth rate of 98% from 2002⁶.

MDG 2: Achieve universal primary education

Yemen still faces huge challenges in meeting the education MDGs, and challenges in measuring progress given weak data. Whilst the latest figures show that the net primary enrolment ratio is 75%⁷ and that the percentage of groups reaching grade 5 (approx. age 11) is lower at 66%⁸, this is likely to be an over-estimation given high population growth. Education is a priority for the Government of Yemen. DFID as part of a broader donor effort contributed 284 new classrooms to increase access and trained 49,737 teachers in 2008/09. An estimated additional 200,000 children went to school in 2008 compared to 2007.⁹ However, quality remains low: Yemen scored poorly in the comparative **Trends in International Maths and Science Study (TIMSS)**. Key reforms – such as setting up an **independent Centre for Monitoring and Evaluation** and establishing an **Education Management Information System (EMIS)** will help improve targeting and raise quality.

Building Business Skills in Yemen

DFID is supporting work by the **International Finance Corporation (IFC)** to improve the environment for businesses and investment. Activities include small business training with a focus on women, micro-finance, an international bank, and private public partnerships in ports and power.

Khadija Al-Basrawi is a university-educated Yemeni woman in her mid-20s living in the capital city of Sana'a. She had always dreamed of running her own business. Two years ago she did it—renting a few rooms in an apartment building, hiring a small staff, and putting them to work making sheets, clothes, and curtains.

Then she discovered something. She knew how to make appealing products but not how to sell them.

Through IFC's *Business Edge* management training program, she found the affordable business guidance she needed. Khadija saw an ad and soon became one of more than 5,600 Yemeni business owners and workers who have learned how to manage and grow their enterprises with *Business Edge*. She has taken nine \$35-a-day workshops delivered in Arabic by experienced, IFC-accredited, local instructors.

Her annual net income has risen dramatically from \$300 to \$3,600 and is still growing.

MDG 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

DFID with other partners has supported the contracting of over 550 rural female teachers which makes schools more acceptable to conservative families, transforming the deployment and training of teachers and is having a significant impact on the lives of poor rural families. However, the progress made on gender in education is not always matched elsewhere, and many barriers remain to greater gender equity. In Yemen, the latest reliable figures show that only 30% of the workforce is made up of women and 80% of those women are in the agricultural sector¹⁰. Under our DPA the Government of Yemen committed to setting the minimum age for female marriage at 15. This was surpassed in February 2009 when the **Parliament passed a law setting the minimum marriage age for all Yemenis at 17**. This significant achievement needs now to be enforced but is a bold step forward.

MDG 4: Reduce child mortality

In Yemen, the under 5 mortality rate is 100 in every 1,000 live births¹¹ and the infant mortality rate is 75¹². Access to health services is very limited in many parts of the country. The vast majority of child deaths are preventable, and malnutrition is likely to be a major contributory factor.

DFID is providing £4.54 million to a **Maternal and Neo-Natal Health programme** through an agreement with the Government of Netherlands. Support to this programme, while only in its second year, shows some promise – since August 2008 the MNH Programme has been funding diploma courses on newborn care for doctors and nurses based in Governorate Health Facilities. This will help reduce the Neonatal Mortality Rate from 37 to 25 per 1,000 live births by 2010.

MDG 5: Improve maternal health

Yemen has the highest maternal mortality ratio (MMR) of the Middle East and North African (MENA) region with 430 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births¹³. Health services suffer from poor distribution of health facilities, inadequate equipment, weak performance of health facilities, poor human resource management.

In 2008 the **Maternal and Neo-Natal Health programme** has trained **182 midwives in Lahaj, Al-Dhale and Taiz governorate** and this expected to contribute (by 2012) to an increase in the proportion of deliveries assisted by skilled birth attendants from 25% to 50%. SFD will train 1,084 female reproductive health workers and 270 health institute staff by 2010.

Al-Qatab rainwater harvesting project in Sa'adah

The 1,000 or so people living in the village of Al-Qatab in Haidan district long relied on traditional harvesting of rainwater. But the village is located at the top of mountains and deprived from any source of water – except for small clusters of al-mawagel (small cisterns) that dry up for much of the year.

Consequently, villagers had to fetch water from the next village, which has natural wells but was two-hours by foot. Making matters worse, each cubic metre of water brought from the centre of the district by truck cost at least 2,000 rials (\$10).

The Social Fund for Development rainwater-harvesting project provided a new, 4,300 cubic metre capacity cistern. This also included a hand-pump, precipitation tank and a separate basin for watering animals, plus a fence to protect the cistern.

The project has made fetching water much easier. And because the chore fell to children and women, school enrolments are up and the area's hygienic and environmental situation is much improved..

MDG 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

Yemen is confronting a severe environmental crisis – it has one of the lowest rates of per capita water availability in the world – about 2% of the world average and declining¹⁴. The Sana'a water basin is being used up about 10 times faster than it is naturally being replaced. Almost 90% of water is used for agriculture, depleting the water tables at an unsustainable rate¹⁵. According to the Government of Yemen (GoY), only 56% of the urban population has access to network water supply and only 31% to sewerage. In rural areas, about 45% of the population has access to safe water and 21% to adequate sanitation¹⁶.

In 2008 DFID agreed **a partnership with the Islamic Development Bank on water and sanitation** in Al-Howta City. In 2008/09 work on the drilling of 10 wells was completed and **the project will ultimately provide clean water and sanitation for 36,000 people (by 2011)**. This is the first DFID partnership with the IDB. The initiative complements wider work with the World Bank, Germans and Dutch to help the GoY update their National Water Policy and design a new sector wide programme.

- 1 World Bank Regional Profile website, 2008
- 2 UN Millennium Development Goals website, 2005.
- 3 Yemen Poverty Assessment 2007, Government of Yemen, World Bank & UNDP
- 4 SFD Impact Evaluation 2006 - ESA consultants March 2007
- 5 2006 SFD Impact Evaluation
- 6 Joint donor review Aide Memoire Dec 2008.
- 7 UN Statistics Division database
- 8 UN Statistics Division database
- 9 Ministry of Education, Technical Office report 2008
- 10 Yemen Poverty Assessment 2007, Government of Yemen, World Bank & UNDP
- 11 UN Statistics Division database
- 12 UN Statistics Division database
- 13 UN MDG's database
- 14 National Water Sector Strategy and Investment Program (NWSSIP) 2007 baseline figures - NWSSIP Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) May 2009
- 15 NWSSIP 2007 baseline figures – NSSIP MOU May 2009.
- 16 NWSSIP 2007 baseline figures – NSSIP MOU May 2009.
- 17 NWSSIP 2007 baseline figures – NSSIP MOU May 2009