



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE



**USAID**  
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## YEMEN

# U.S. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PERFORMANCE PUBLICATION Fiscal Year 2009

### **FY 2009 FOREIGN ASSISTANCE GOALS**

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The United States Government (USG) goals include increasing stability and countering terrorism and extremist influences in Yemen. Our success in Yemen is critical to both regional stability and the U.S. strategies in Iraq and Afghanistan. There is potential for a strong partnership between the USG and the Yemeni Government due to their shared interest in stability. Foreign development assistance is fundamental to U.S. success as the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)'s projects help to meet the needs of the Yemeni people. Basic health and education services help address grievances in underserved communities, with the longer-term goal of ameliorating Yemen's abysmal health and education statistics. Assistance to farmers also touches the lives of Yemeni people as it increases incomes and livelihoods. Support for improved governance helps address disaffection with government through combating corruption; improving Parliamentary proceedings, civil society, and party oversight functions; promoting decentralization; and increasing government capacity to make well-informed policy and budgetary decisions. Development needs in Yemen – the poorest country in the Middle East – are great, and the Mission looks forward to additional accomplishments in FY 2010.

### **HIGHLIGHTS BY PROGRAM OBJECTIVE**

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#### **Peace and Security**

A weak central government and deteriorating economy presents a combined risk, making Yemen a haven for terrorists. Terrorist attacks in the country have increased over the last few years. Due to Yemen's location adjacent to the Bab al-Mandeb (Horn of Africa) and Saudi Arabia, terrorist groups in Yemen pose a direct threat to Saudi Arabia and throughout the region, including on a transcontinental basis. The USG is attempting to ameliorate these issues by building the Yemeni Government's capacity to act as a partner against terrorists. Diplomatic Security's Antiterrorism Assistance (DS/ATA) program focuses on fighting terrorism. DS/ATA in Yemen had five training courses in FY 2009. Meanwhile, International Military Education and Training (IMET) and Foreign Military Financing (FMF) funds are increasing the Yemeni military's capacity, professionalism, and inter-operability with U.S. forces, making it a stronger counterterrorism partner.

Nonproliferation, Antiterrorism, Demining, and related programs help the Yemeni Government make it more difficult for terrorists to operate in the country. Counterterrorism finance funds help to limit funding to terrorists by providing training support to Yemen's counterterrorist financing elements, including the fledgling Finance Intelligence Unit. The Terrorist Interdiction Program funds reduce terrorists' freedom of movement by buttressing Yemen's PISCES (Personal Identification Secure Comparison and Evaluation System). Small Arms and Light Weapons, and Humanitarian Demining funding make weapons and explosives less available to terrorists in Yemen, while Export Control and Related Border Security Assistance programming inhibits the ability to move radioactive and radiological items, including those used in weapons of mass destruction, through the country.

Overall, the USG focuses on improving Yemen's counterterrorism capacity. Altogether, these efforts aim to make Yemen into a country where terrorist groups cannot operate.

Some of the 2009 successes include the following:

- Trained six people on counterterrorism finance
- Supported 24 ports of entry by USG Terrorist Interdiction Programs
- Completed one USG-assisted assessment on terrorism
- Trained 500 people in antiterrorism
- Trained 100 host country military personnel to maintain territorial integrity
- Met more of the FY 2009 need for U.S.-recommended military training

### **Governing Justly and Democratically**

USAID's support for parliamentary capacity building, political party development, decentralization, and anticorruption achieved many of its targets in FY 2009. USAID's governance work sought to enhance the transparency, accountability, and effectiveness of Yemen's national and sub-national governing entities, while also strengthening capacity at local levels to ensure that Yemenis feel government presence in their communities and to reduce the disenfranchisement that pervades the country. USAID worked with Yemen's Parliament on issues of corruption, political party competitiveness, and increased participation of women and youth. USAID's work in anticorruption also included working with civil society organizations (CSOs) and the Supreme National Authority for Combating Corruption (SNACC). USAID was a major donor to the Decentralization and Local Development Support Program to work with the Ministry of Local Administration (MOLA) on policy, institutional, and capacity development of the country's new local authority system. These efforts resulted in greater efficiency of MOLA in its decentralization effort and in the formulation of Yemen's National Decentralization Strategy.

In preparation for the 2009 parliamentary elections, USAID worked to build consensus among political parties and address remaining electoral challenges, including problems with the voter registry, polling procedures, campaign financing, and the capacity of the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referenda (SCER). Unfortunately, and to the consternation of partners and a portion of the Republic of Yemen Government (ROYG) and its citizens, the elections never took place. This postponement resulted in straining the already tense relationship between the ruling party and the opposition, and increasing the challenge of USAID's work with the SCER.

In FY 2009, USG assistance accomplished the following:

- Trained 2,468 individuals, including 1,511 in political party-related activities, 439 in parliamentary-related activities, 299 in civil society and media-related activities, and 219 in women-related activities, with indirect capacity building for 10,000-15,000 more through USAID's political party training-of-trainers and the anticorruption CSO small grants program
- Improved quality of parliamentary budget debate and oversight; assisted in the drafting of the Access to Information Law and the Civil Society Law; strengthened the SNACC's Civil Society Department, increased civil society involvement in anticorruption efforts at national and local levels; and built organizational, advocacy, and investigative capacity in 23 CSOs
- Increased the quota for women in political parties, resulting in 15 percent more seats for women in Parliament. The project also increased the number of youth filling political positions (32 youth appointed to Islah Shura Council) and established or revived party youth structures.
- Supported capacity building at the national level for MOLA staff; 25 staff received training on strategic planning (to address departmental and organization-wide requirements); 20 personnel were trained on core administrative procedures pertaining to financial management, human resource management, and internal administrative control (public administration); 8 senior-level managers were trained in areas pertaining to strategic management, leadership development, and information systems management
- Supported the establishment of the District Facilitation Team in the governorates of Abyan and Al-Jawf and built the team's capacities in public expenditure management, including local planning, budgeting, and administrative skills. In addition, a Governorate Capacity Building Team was established in Abyan Governorate to help increase prospects for sustainability.
- Supported the High Tender Board to develop a website that provides information on the public procurement process and tender opportunities with the aim of increasing transparency and reducing procurement-related corruption
- Provided technical assistance in legal and judiciary matters to the Central Organization for Control & Audits and trained 35 staff over a period of 24 days so that they can create operational plans, organizational by-laws, and draft protocols of interagency coordination. The support contributed to increasing the capacity of the anticorruption agencies and improving communication and coordination among these entities, which has led to the processing of several high profile cases and many low- and mid-level prosecutions.

### **Investing in People**

Yemen has some of the worst health indicators in the world. The fertility rate is 6 births per woman, the population growth rate is 3.1 percent, the maternal mortality rate is 365 in every 100,000, and the infant mortality rate is 74 in every 1,000 live births. USAID's support to the ROYG to improve maternal child health (MCH) services focused on service delivery and technical support in the remote and underserved governorates with the long-term goal of reducing maternal and infant mortality. USAID's efforts supported the Ministry of Public Health and Population

(MOPHP)'s national strategic (2006-10) targets to reduce the maternal mortality rate and the infant mortality rate.

USAID worked with the MOPHP to accomplish the following:

- Increase accessibility to the health services
- Improve the quality of services provision, mainly MCH, family planning and reproductive health (FP/RH), health policy, and health system strengthening
- Build capacity for a strategic information system to improve decision-making about health policy and budgets

USAID's commitment to gender equity and strengthening the community's knowledge of women's rights vis-à-vis Islamic rules was demonstrated through its successful engagement of local religious leaders. USAID recognizes that this work at the community level is necessary to improve health indicators for women, which in turn improves health indicators for their families.

In FY 2009, USG assistance accomplished the following:

- Exceeded all targets, including in-service training of 480 health providers and pre-service training of 203 graduated midwives, thanks to strong support from governorates and communities
- Renovated 51 health facilities and continued supervising 12 mobile teams that serve approximately 240 facilities and 63,349 clients
- Supported the MOPHP's 2009 polio eradication campaign, immunizing 358,667 children less than 5 years of age
- Finalized vaccination protocols (for tetanus, zero-level polio, and BCG (TB)) with the MOPHP
- Piloted a series of "Safe Age Marriage" activities through a local non-governmental organization
- Trained 40 local educators and held 562 meetings to educate 9,017 people, including local religious leaders. (These religious leaders and female religious educators now include safe age of marriage education in their regular awareness activities.)
- Trained 37 religious leaders on public awareness on FP/RH issues; they are now actively disseminating these messages
- Developed a manual of health messages that covers both MCH and FP/RH topics

Yemen's education indicators are also among the worst in the Middle East. Fewer than half of Yemenis are literate, and the literacy rate for women is particularly low, at 29 percent. Primary school attendance is 40 percent for girls, with only 13 percent of girls going on to secondary school. USAID relies upon a unique integrated approach and is setting up models of good schools by doing multi-faceted interventions, including renovations, teacher and headmaster training, developing and training parent councils, and working in adult literacy. This work with communities has been a key to successes on the ground. It also empowers the communities to work towards bettering their lives by having a greater awareness of the benefits of education.

USAID is also supporting the Ministry's capacity by introducing management information systems. The Ministry of Education (MOE) recognizes and understands the power and impact of the USAID education programs, which it holds up as a model to its partners. USAID works with the MOE to accomplish the following:

- Improve access to education services through school renovation
- Empower local communities through training parents' councils
- Improve the quality of teaching methods through training teachers, headmasters, and inspectors and constructing multi-purpose centers
- Support policy and decision makers through integrating, training, and equipping data offices
- Strengthen gender equity through integrating gender into all the above components

USAID is implementing initiatives intended to enhance learning, keep girls in school, and encourage young males to become productive members of their communities. In FY 2009, USG assistance accomplished the following:

- Successfully combined three data-gathering offices in three governorates, resulting in improved communication between these offices and a reduction in redundancy
- Completed the renovation and expansion of two schools, which included the construction of two multi-purpose centers
- Trained 53 science teachers
- Met the targeted number of learners enrolled in USG-supported primary schools: 29,418 (17,585 men and 11,833 women)
- Confirmed that 89 percent of teachers trained are actively using the new teaching techniques they learned through USAID programs

### **Economic Growth and Agriculture**

USAID's current efforts in economic growth and agriculture are modest until new projects come online in FY 2010.

USAID's agriculture sector support project focuses on improving agricultural sector productivity through technical support and capacity building using a network of extension services for rural farmers in the underserved governorates of Shabwah, Mareb, Amran, Sa'ada, and Al-Jawf. The program aims to increase horticultural and livestock production and increase marketing opportunities for agricultural products in targeted communities. In FY 2009, USG assistance accomplished the following:

- Increased the returns of agricultural activities in rural communities to 10 percent per agricultural harvest
- Provided technical support to 1,500 farmers in the form of training and improved agriculture/agro-processing technologies for the marketing of agricultural products
- Provided advice and support to an additional 3,700 farmers from extension agents and from those farmers receiving direct inputs from USAID