

DISASTER
RELIEF

CASE REPORT

Yemen Arab Republic—Armyworm Infestation
July 1974

Agency for International Development
Washington, DC 20523

Foreign Disaster Case Reports are publications of the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, Agency for International Development. This office has responsibility for coordinating U.S. Government foreign disaster relief responses and for the further coordination of such activities with those of the U.S. private and international disaster relief communities.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Director acknowledges assistance received in the preparation of this and other case reports from the many public and private organizations in the United States and abroad engaged in foreign disaster relief.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Armyworm Infestation—July 1974

Yemen, an agricultural country, was experiencing its best rainfall since the prolonged drought in 1966 and a bumper summer crop was expected. However, an infestation of armyworms, possibly due to favorable climatic conditions and the abundance of rain, was destroying the country's major crop of sorghum.

The loss of sorghum would have had a severe effect on Yemen's potentially prosperous agriculture. Although there is an annual occurrence of armyworms, the number of worms in 1974 was far greater than usual. Total infestation destruction was confined to an estimated 15 to 20 percent in the "breadbasket" area of Ta'izz and Ibb.

Value of Assistance by the U.S. Government \$22,481

ACTION TAKEN BY THE YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC GOVERNMENT (YARG)

The YARG had sufficient resources to cope with the regular northerly migration of armyworms every year from East Africa to northern Yemen, augmented by additional supplies of pesticides and hand sprayers furnished by West Germany and airlifted to Yemen in July.

In September, after having dealt with the armyworm infestation emergency, YARG agriculture officials were confronted with a new problem. The stocks needed for the annual September to December spraying of cotton, the country's major cash crop, were exhausted. There was an urgent need for up to 15 tons of pesticides for spraying cotton, plus an additional 15 tons to replenish the exhausted stocks. Efforts were made by YARG to purchase the chemicals in neighboring cotton-producing countries in Africa.

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT

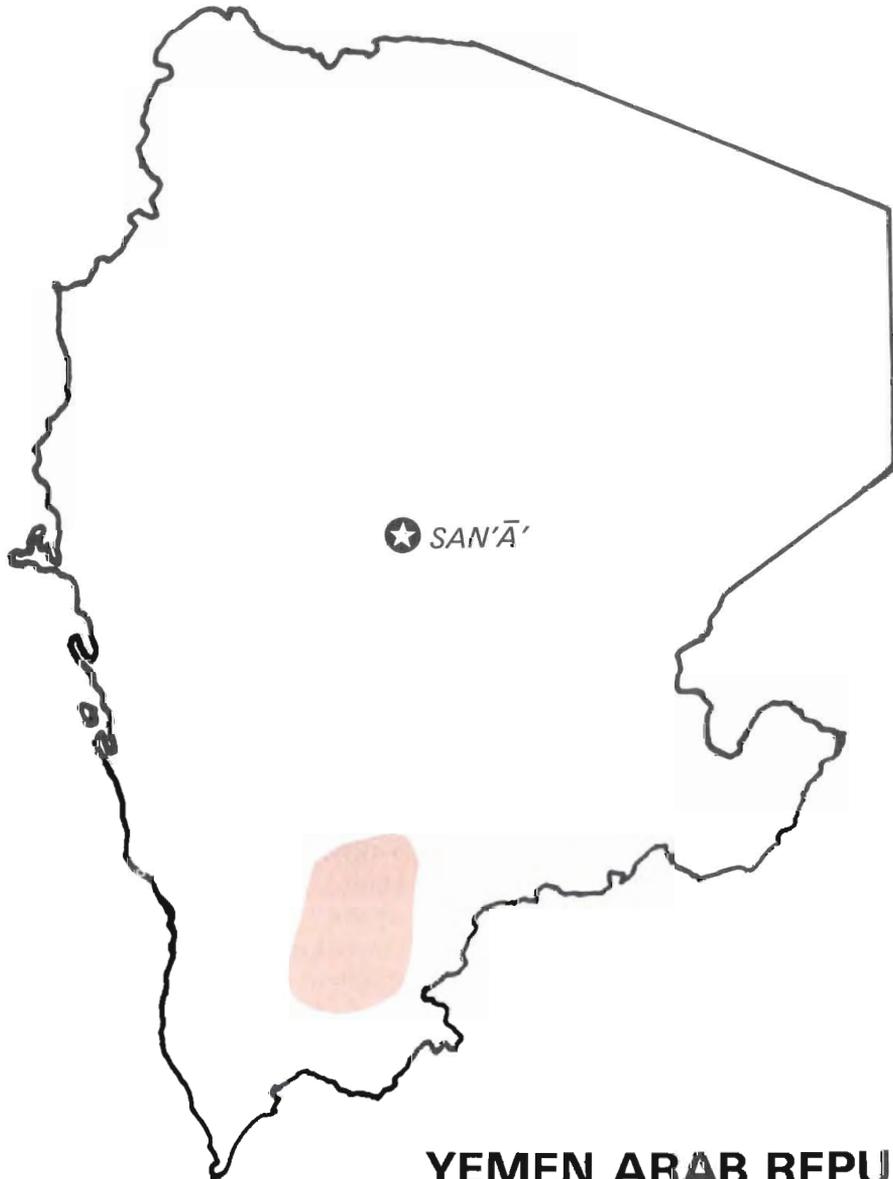
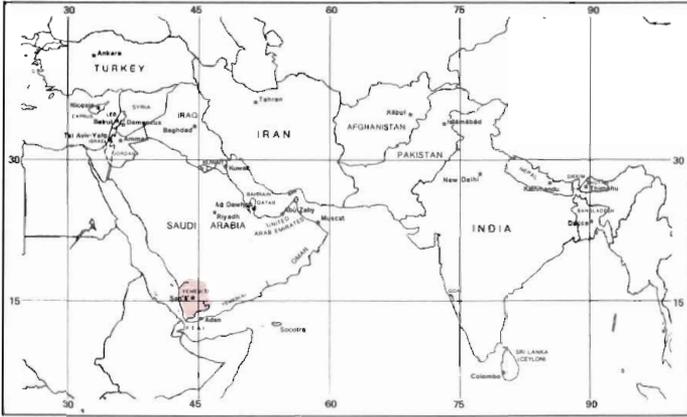
On July 12, 1974, Ambassador William R. Crawford determined that the present armyworm infestation in Yemen constituted a disaster emergency since it was feared that the country would lose large portions of the year's sorghum crop. The Ambassador ex-

ercised his disaster relief authority in the amount of \$25,000 from A.I.D.'s contingency funds for the purchase of pesticides and sprayers to reduce the potential crop loss. With the arrival of 25 tons of pesticides and 2,500 hand sprayers from West Germany on July 16, the funds were held in reserve and used in September at the request of the YARG Minister of Agriculture to purchase carbaryl, 85 percent wettable powder, to replenish stocks.

A.I.D.'s office of Foreign Disaster Relief Coordination arranged for the procurement of 22,046 pounds of carbaryl (\$18,639) and ocean transport (\$3,742) of the pesticide from the United States to Mocha, Yemen.

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY OTHER GOVERNMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS

A technical committee was established in Yemen with representation consisting of YARG, Federal Republic of Germany, United States, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The UNDP Resident Representative coordinated all efforts of the committee to combat the infestation of armyworms and concentration on spraying other crops. Total assistance provided by the United Nations and West Germany was not reported.



YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC