OMAN AND YEMEN STATUS REPORT

PREPARED BY USAID/EGYPT

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STATUS REPORT

A. OMAN

1. Child Spacing: Over the past eighteen months, two centrally-funded activities have been implemented in Oman - Association for Voluntary and Safe Contraception (AVSC)and Primary Providers' Education and Training in Reproductive Health (PRIME)- to support child spacing activities.

These activities came to closure this year. The main activity was completion of the final evaluation which took place in May. A team composed of staff from the contractors, AVSC and PRIME, as well as a USDH from USAID/Egypt participated in a week long evaluation looking at assistance in the areas of IEC (Information, Education, Communication); training of health educators, and physicians; assistance to improvement of the MIS (Management Information System); and a brief look at ongoing policy formulation and the status of contraceptives.

Recent population statistics for Oman indicate the success of USAID's $3 million overall investment in family planning. Prior to USAID assistance, family planning did not exist in Oman. In 1994, the first year of the program, there were 5,053 new clients for family planning services, by 1996, that figured had multiplied almost six fold to 30,711. These visits translated into a TFR (Total Fertility Rate) of 5.2, down from the 1993 Census TFR of 6.87 -- a significant decrease in a short period of time. The Birth Spacing Program was initiated at that right time, responding to significant latent demand for family planning services.

In addition to the evaluation, other activities also occurred this year. (1) In December AVSC conducted follow-up training to the TOT (training of trainers) training in IUD insertion and (2) the MIS consultant under PRIME visited in November and April, developing an improved Reproductive Health Card, to be carried by women and families, containing overall health history and a record of contraceptive use. These MIS improvements have helped to strengthen an already strong health information system.

2. Fisheries Development and Management (Project No. 272-0106): The completion date for this activity was December 31, 1996. The project was inaugurated in November 1997 with the participation of the U.S. Embassy in Oman.

3. Salalah Water Resources Development (Project No. 272-0104): The American construction firm of ABB Susa, Inc. continues to progress according to schedule toward completion of the wastewater reclamation plant. The current planned completion date is October 1998. The American engineering firm of Camp

Dresser McKee, International (CDM) is the construction supervision firm to the GovOman and the Municipality of Dhofar. The Municipality released international invitations for bid (IFB) for the contract to construct the GovOman-financed wastewater collection and conveyance system (known as Contract 1) in November 1997. The public opening of the IFB has been delayed twice and is now set for March 16, 1998. The Municipality has contracted CDM to itemize the additional costs and issues that will develop because of the delay in receiving wastewater at the plant on commissioning in October of 1998. It is currently envisaged that a "partial" commissioning will occur using fresh water to test the equipment and release the contractor's obligations under warranties. Full operation of the plant would not begin until the conveyance system was completed in May 2000. USAID/Cairo continues to monitor this action in view of our current obligations.

4. Omani-American Joint Commission (OAJC) II (Project No. 272-0105): On March 5, 1997, USAID/Egypt signed a $231,429 grant with the International Executive Services Corps (IESC) to conduct private sector development activities in Oman. Under this grant IESC has completed provision of technical assistance to the Omani Center for Investment Promotion and Export Development (OCIPED), the Ministry of Development, and the Ministry of National Economy as follows:

a. OCIPED: In support of OCIPED, IESC has provided assistance to OCIPED through Centers for Quality Assurance (CQA) and the Manufacturing Technology Centers (MTC). This assistance has provided OCIPED with a quality assurance system which will be ISO 9000 certified in June 1998.

b. Ministry of Development: At the Ministry of Development, an IESC volunteer developed and installed upgraded statistical and tabulation software, which integrates information from outside sources, including information and data from socio-economic data bases, geographic information systems, data handling systems, and library information systems. In addition, areas for training were identified and a data base for 23 information systems were completed and installed.

c. Ministry of National Economy: Initially, IESC was to provide the Ministry of Finance with a tax policy expert to advise Ministry officials on how to restructure Oman's tax rates to attract foreign investments and encourage Omani businesses to reinvest their profits. However, at the request of the GovOman, this activity was deferred in favor of support to the Ministry of National Economy to develop a privatization strategy. As a result, IESC drafted a summary report with recommendations for privatization in Oman including, among other things, guidelines for privatization tenders, reorganization of privatization program management, development of advisory committees for privatization review, and revisions to "Omanization" policies to allow more latitude for privatizing companies.

B. YEMEN

1. Options for Family Care (OFC) (Project No. 279-0090): Lower Level Result (LLR) 1.1, Sustainable female staffing established in centers in three governorates: Activities in support of LLR 1.1 got underway in early 1997 with renovation and equipping of centers and a three-month training of trainers course. Training activities at most OFC-supported community midwife training centers began in April 1997, with an average of 20 trainees in place at each center. A strong follow-up and supervisory system has been put in place to ensure training quality and provide in-service support to trainers. The planned 18-month course was scheduled to end in September 1998; however, the Ministry of Public Health made the decision in late 1997 to extend community midwife training by six additional months, through March, 1999. Discussions are currently underway to determine how financial and technical support for training can continue to be provided after September, 1998.

Lower Level Result 1.2, Minimum Quality Standards for Centers in Place in Four Governorates: Improvements were made to health center physical facilities during 1997, with renovation work on OFC-supported service delivery sites completed and clinical equipment procured and delivered to centers. On the other hand, there was extensive delay in getting quality standards in place in OFC-supported facilities. In early 1998, however, Project Clinical and Management Resident Advisors appointed in late 1997 initiated a series of training activities designed to improve clinical and management practices at OFC-supported health centers. Additional efforts through September 1998 will focus on the strengthening of MOPH refresher training capacity and implementation, and the development of a monitoring and supervisory system to ensure ongoing quality of services.

Lower Level Result 1.3, Community and Individual Participation Increased in Three Governorates: Beginning in late 1996, community meetings were held to generate support for OFC activities in Hajjah, Hodeidah and Hadramaut. Community Participation Agreements (CPAs) outlining contributions of community, MOPH and OFC Project partners were signed by mid-1997, and extensive followup took place to ensure partner compliance with CPAs. With community midwife training underway at centers and communities effectively mobilized and providing support to community midwife training, the focus of community participation efforts shifted, in late 1997, toward ensuring the sustainability of community participation processes through the further development of community board structures and functions. Assistance through the end of the project will thus center on developing the capacity of community boards to identify community needs and plan and manage community inputs to address these needs on an ongoing basis. Additionally, to increase community support for health services delivery, health centers will receive targeted technical assistance to support implementation of improved user fee and financial management systems.

2. PRIME (Primary Providers' Education and Training in Reproductive Health): In its continuing support to the Ministry of Public Health in implementing the National Midwifery Training Plan, PRIME technical consultants finalized a competency-based 18-month community midwifery (CM) training program curriculum and a three-month Training of Trainers (TOT) curriculum. From early December 1996 through mid-February 1997, the PRIME Regional Advisor worked with a training team of six core and five support trainers to conduct the three-month TOT program in Sana'a, which was attended by 51 midwives from 17 governorates. PRIME also provided training reference materials and other resource documents to libraries in each of the community midwifery training centers supported under the OFC Project.

PRIME activities were completed in September 1997. An end of project review conducted by PRIME emphasized the need for medical standards at the field level, continuity and cohesion between CM training and service delivery, regular upgrading and training of CM trainers implementing the CM curriculum, continuous follow-up, supervision and on-the-job training of community midwives, and community involvement in CM training.

3. Second Yemen Demographic and Maternal and Child Health Survey (YDMCHS-II): Planning for and design of the survey got underway by MACRO International in June 1997 in close collaboration with the Central Statistical Organization (CSO). For this second survey, the CSO utilized all female field interviewers, with data collection completed by November 1997. Analysis of data will begin in March, 1998, and a preliminary report should be available by March/April 1998. Final and summary reports will be completed by July, with a final dissemination seminar planned for September 1998.

It is noteworthy to mention that the YDMCHS-II will include, for the first time, data on maternal mortality and female circumcision.

4. Demographic Data Initiatives (DDI) Project (Project No. 936-3046): This centrally-funded activity, which was completed in April, 1997, supported the provision of technical assistance by the Bureau of the Census (BUCEN) to Yemen's Central Statistical Organization (CSO). Key objectives of BUCEN assistance were to: (a) strengthen the technical capabilities of the Central Statistical Organization (CSO) in data collection, processing, and analysis in order to prepare for and implement the 1994 national census; and (b) assist the CSO to evaluate, analyze and disseminate findings of the 1994 census for use by policy leaders and key decisionmakers, particularly in formulating the 1996 five-year plan. In this, BUCEN consultants assisted in the development of the sampling frame for the 1994 census, in data analysis and dissemination, and in follow-on gender disaggregation of census data. Through this activity, CSO staff also attended BUCEN courses in Geographic Information Systems and Network Design and Management.

5. Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA): Through support from the USAID/Washington Child Survival Grants Program, this PVO is implementing a three-year, community-based child survival project in three rural districts in Hodeidah governorate. The project aims to both strengthen health services and facilitate community participation in child survival activities such as diarrheal disease prevention, immunization, and nutrition education. ADRA conducted a mid-term evaluation of the activity in September 1997 and found that activities are progressing satisfactorily. Women's groups and health committees have been formed at project sites, and literacy training and small enterprise development loan programs have been initiated. Key focus is on empowering communities as key stakeholders in health services delivery.

6. Democracy and Governance: This activity funded technical assistance through IFES and NDI which included training of poll workers and the provision of election observers in support of Yemeni national elections. USG funding made available to the activity totalled over $500,000. This included $175,000 in funds from the Global Bureau in FY 95 field support funds and $275,000 in FY 97 ESF ($100,000 additional funds to IFES to train poll workers and $165,000 to NDI to provide election observers). Also, IFES has used $30,000 from its core funds in the G/DG CEPPS cooperative agreement and NDI is using $46,000 from its core funds in the same agreement. Elections took place in April, 1997, and were widely regarded as democratic and highly successful.

C. Procurement for Yemen/Oman from April 1997 to March 1998

1. Oman/Yemen Participants: USAID/Egypt has backstopping responsibilities for 12 Omani and 16 Yemeni participants still in the U.S. completing long-term academic programs. The participants are currently being managed under the USAID/Washington central participant training contract with Partners for International Education and Training (PIET). This contract ended March 31, 1997.

USAID/Egypt's Office of Procurement finalized a Task Order for $1,228,000 under the Global Bureau's training contract with World Learning, Inc., to continue managing and monitoring the 12 Omani and 16 Yemeni participants completing long-term academic programs in the U.S. The Task Order duration is April 1, 1997 through September 30, 1999. A modification to the Task Order was executed in February 1998 to add an additional $86,821 to fully fund the participants' programs through completion.

USAID/Egypt's Office of Education and Training has assumed responsibility for managing the Task Order and interacting with the training contractor on all program issues for the Omani participants and with the Yemeni staff in Sanaa on issues for the Yemeni participants.

As of the end of FY 1997, two Yemeni participants completed their programs and fourteen still remained in training. Two more Yemeni participants completed their program at the end of December 1997. Two Omani participants completed their programs by the end of FY and one other participant completed by the end of October 1997. Five Omanis remained in training under USAID funding and four remained after being transferred to Government of Oman funding. The attached tables provide an overview on the status of all the Omani and Yemeni participants.

2. Yemen: In January 1997, an incremental funding modification to the **John Snow, Inc. contract** was executed, adding $466,740 to the total obligation. An additional modification to the JSI contract will be negotiated in March 1998 to reflect changes resulting in a slight increase in the total estimated cost and to make the final obligation of funds.

A Task Order under the USAID/W contract with Macro International was awarded in June 1997 in the amount of $1,066,415. Macro is conducting the **Yemen Demographic Health Survey** in 1997/1998. The Task Order is fully funded.

SCHEDULE OF PLANNED ACTIVITY COMPLETIONS

Country	Proj. No.	Project Title	Auth. ($000)	Planned ($000)	PACD
Oman	Cent. Fund	Child Spacing	-	-	6/97
Oman	272-0106	Fisheries Dev. Mgmt.	15,500	20,000	9/97
Oman	272-0104	Water Resources Dev.	62,491	62,491	12/99
Oman	272-0105	Omani-Am. Joint Com.	8,000	16,000	9/96
Oman	272-0109	Training and Support	30,000	30,000	9/99
Yemen	279-0090	Options for Fam. Care (OFC)	11,374	11,374	9/98
Yemen	Cent. Fund	PRIME	421	421	9/97
Yemen	279-0090	Options for Fam. Care - DHS	1,000	1,000	9/98
Yemen	936-3046	Demographic Data Initiatives	1,000	1,000	4/97
Yemen	279-0080	Dev. Training III	45,610	45,610	9/99
Yemen	279-0082	Accelerated Coop. Child Survival	8,789	8,789	9/98
Yemen	Cent. Fund	Dem./Governance	526	526	9/97

OMANI PARTICIPANTS

NAME	INSTITUTION	DEGREE	COMPLETION	STATUS
1. Saada Al Ghafry	U. Georgia	PhD/Ed	Nov. 1997	SIT/GOF
2. Sanaa El Balushi	U. of Louisville	EdD/Ed	Dec. 1997	RH
3. Nada Al Moussa	Villanova	BS/Nurse	May 1998	SIT/GOF
4. Mohamed Al Murzaaa	St. Louis U.	BS/Bus	July 1997	SIT/GOF
5. Hilal El Mukhaini	U. Rhode Island	PhD/Res. Econ.	Sept. 1997	SIT/GOF
6. Saada Al Barawani	Villanova	BS/Nurse	May 1998	SIT
7. Sumaiya Al Ghaithy	Villanova	BS/Nurse	May 1998	SIT
8. Ahmed Al Khabouri	Jackson St. U.	PhD/Pub. Adm.	Oct. 1997	T
9. Jamal Al Khaduri	Villanova	BS/Nurse	May 1999	SIT
10. Fatma Al Lamaki	Villanova	BS/Nurse	May 1998	SIT
11. Abdullah Al Rubei	Villanova	MS/Nurse	May 1997	RH
12. Samira Al Rawahi	Villanova	MS/Nurse	May 1997	NR

SIT: Still in Training
RH: Returned Home
NR: Non-Returnee
GOF: GovOman Funding
T: Terminated

YEMENI PARTICIPANTS

NAME	INSTITUTION	DEGREE	COMPLETION	STATUS
1. Morheb Al Assad	Jackson St. U.	PhD/Pub Adm	Aug. 1998	SIT
2. Entisar Dahane	Carnegie Mellon	MPM/Health	May 1998	SIT
3. Tawfeek Al Dubhani	Carnegie Mellon	MPM/InfoSy	May 1998	SIT
4. Abdullah Al Hamdi ‘	Carnegie Mellon	MPM/InfoSy	May 1998	SIT
5. Ilham Al Hamadi	George Mason.	MEd/Ed	Aug. 1998	SIT
6. Nahla El Huraibi	Ohio U.	MA/Soc	Dec. 1998	SIT
7. Lamis A. Irayani	Kentucky St. U.	MPA	Dec. 1997	RH
8. Adnan Ismail	U. Mass/Lowell	PhD/Physics	Aug. 1998	SIT
9. Iskhrak Al Kershi	Carnegie Mellon	MPM/HRes.	May 1998	SIT
10. Ali Al Omary	Carnegie Mellon	MPM/Fin.	May 1998	SIT
11. Anwar Al Sanabani	Morgan St. U.	MS/Plan.	Dec. 1998	SIT
12. Mohamed Shamsuddin	U. of Arizona	MS/P.Health	Aug. 1998	SIT
13. Amatalwali Al Sharki	U. of Dayton	MS/Eng. Mgt.	Aug. 1997	RH

14. Mohamed Al Ward	Morgan St. U.	MS/Planning	May 1998	SIT
15. Musad Al Ward	Clark Atlanta	MS/Comp. Sc.	Dec. 1997	RH
16. Tariq Yehya	Iowa State U.	MS/Statistics	Aug. 1997	TH

SIT: Still in Training
RH: Returned Home
TH: Terminated for Health Reasons