

Factsheet

Country: Republic of Yemen

Project:
Institutional Development of the Water Sector

Term: 1997 – 2015

Total funding: € 23,000,000 (1994 – 2009)

Institutional Development of the Water Sector

Context

Yemen is a country of grave water shortages that relies on groundwater for supply. Only 125 m³ is available annually per capita, and groundwater is being heavily overexploited and polluted. In some regions, abstraction exceeds recharge by 400%. This endangers not only the drinking water supply for rural and urban areas, but also the livelihoods of small-scale agricultural farmers. It is estimated that more than 90% of water resources are spent on irrigation. About 53% of the urban population has no access to centralised water supply systems, and about 75% has no access to centralised sanitation services.

Although sector development has made significant progress in the past ten years, water sector organisations still need intensive capacity development to improve effectiveness and performance. Many towns and rural areas still lack a safe water supply. More than three million urban inhabi-

tants need to have access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation if the MDG is to be reached in 2015.

Project

The Programme represents a multi-level approach. On the national level, the Ministry of Water and Environment is being supported in the implementation of the National Water Sector Strategy and Investment Plan, which was developed with the assistance of GTZ to the Technical Secretariat (TS) for Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Reform. The TS also facilitates the decentralisation process in the urban water supply and sanitation. It prepares the legal documents for establishing decentralised and commercialised urban water utilities.

On the local level, GTZ supports the decentralised utilities in the fields of management, operations, customer

dialogue and public awareness until they function at a high standard. In addition, advisory committees to the water utilities representing local interests such as those of the poor and of women have been established and given support. The advisory committees play a pivotal role, especially in setting pro-poor water tariffs and improving services to the customers. In addition, public information centres have been set up to promote hygiene education, conduct water-saving campaigns and train field workers for customer dialogue.

On the cross-cutting level, GTZ supports the National Water and Sanitation Authority in extending and implementing the National Training Programme for the water supply and sanitation sector. Parts of a coherent qualification programme have been established, which attracts personnel from water utilities in particular. The National Training Programme offers a

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Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development



*National Training Programme
for technicians*

*Maintenance of a waste water
treatment plant*



wide range of qualification opportunities, from top management to technicians and craftsmen.

On the regional level, integrated water resources management is being introduced. GTZ has recently started to support the National Water Resources Authority in establishing water basin committees and water resources management plans for regions facing a water crisis. Sound water management has become a prerequisite for increasing the number of people with access to a safe water supply. Thus a holistic approach combining water supply and water resources management is being followed.

Within the framework of a developing sector-wide approach, the Programme is closely coordinated with other donors, such as the World Bank, the EU, UNDP and the Netherlands. Through its institutional capacity building GTZ enables Yemeni water sector institutions to absorb budget aid support and financial aid tied to infrastructure investment. The Programme is being implemented in close collaboration with other German development organisations such as the KfW development bank (providing financing for the infrastructure), the Federal Institution for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR), German Development Service (DED) and the Centrum für Internationale Migration und Entwicklung (CIM). The Programme is an integral part of German support to Yemen in the focal area of water.

Impact

Technical Cooperation has so far resulted in a significant improvement in the institutional framework conditions for the water sector. Now Yemen has not only a water policy and a strategy for water management, but also a detailed investment plan for 2005-2009 setting out priorities and areas of activity. This provides a sound basis for improving development in the water sector and encouraging investment by other donors. In addition, the decentralisation process has passed several milestones and is continuing. With the assistance of German Development Cooperation, 12 autonomous and semi-autonomous water utilities offer water supply and sanitation services to the urban population in medium-sized towns. An urban population of about one million has now access to safe drinking water and sanitation services. Of these, about 60% are poor people living below the poverty line. The successful concept for developing independent water utilities is being implemented in other towns in Yemen by the Yemeni authorities and other donors.

Hygiene education for nurses



Imprint

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