

GFDRR in Yemen: Country Snapshot

Yemen is a disaster prone country that faces a number of natural hazards every year, the most important ones being flash floods, earthquake, and land- or rockslides. According to the Emergency Events Database (EM-DAT) approximately 100,000 people are affected annually by disasters triggered by natural hazards in Yemen. The World Bank, through the GFDRR, as well as other international organizations like UNDP, IFRC etc. are assisting the Government of Yemen to strengthen its National System for disaster risk management, in order to secure better coordination between the public and private sector, as well as to foster the participation from civil society. GFDRR activities aim also to strengthen the understanding and integration of hazard risk management among line ministries and planning agencies.



Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction at the National and City Level

The overall strategy to support Yemen in developing a sound Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery system using the funds made available by GFDRR (\$947,000) includes three main activities: (i) a country disaster risk assessment (ii) national DRR System, including necessary legal and strategic frameworks to ensure mainstreaming and inter-ministerial and inter-sectoral coordination, and (iii) a series of innovative pilot activities at the local level within specific sectors (e.g. through add-ons to ongoing or under-preparation projects), and/or cross-cutting (e.g. national awareness campaign, climate change adaptations, etc).



A probabilistic risk assessment is underway in order to develop an analysis of risk exposure and financial response capacity for Yemen. The consultant firm will employ advanced hazard analysis and catastrophic risk modeling techniques to identify and evaluate the main sources of losses from natural disaster. Awareness building and education on effects of disasters and disaster management techniques an ongoing effort by way of workshops and seminars. There is also an effort to integrate DRR knowledge in current execution of urban and public works projects in the country. An integral component of the City

Development Strategy (CDS) in Sana'a (Capital of Yemen) is a risk assessment and a Human Resource Management (HRM) Plan which includes an Urban Upgrading Strategy; update of the land use/master; and a capital investment plan and time-bound prioritized action plan.

Strengthening Capacity for Disaster Risk Reduction

Following the floods in October 2008, caused by the storm 03B, which seriously affected the eastern governorates of Yemen - Hadramout and Al-Mahara, GFDRR has leveraged resources toward the following activities: (i) a Flood and Land Slide Hazard Risk Atlas for Hadramout and Al Mahra governorates, (ii) an analysis of the applications of catastrophic risk modeling for hazard risk management in Hadramout and Al Mahra governorates; and (iii) recommend methodology and hydraulic design considerations for the design (by others) of roads, housing in urban and rural areas, agricultural areas, and for the detailed design of flood training works to be designed by others for protection of critical flood- and landslide-prone populated areas in Hadramout and Al Mahra governorates.