

Aden Micro-finance Foundation

The Social Fund for Development (SFD) continues to support the establishment of active micro-finance institutions. The Aden Micro-Finance Foundation (AMF) is a yield of such SFD efforts.

The AMF was established by merging three programs of Dar Sa'ad, Sheikh Othman and Al-Ma'alla, which were covering the governorates of Aden and Lahj. The new foundation was declared on 22 June 2005 initially under the name "Al-Tadhamon Micro-Finance Foundation", after which it became an entity with a very distinct financial existence, capable of extending many micro-financing products and of being sustainable.

In October 2005, its name was changed to the Aden Micro-Finance Foundation.

The AMF extends its services through the Foundation's five branches at Al-Ma'alla, Sheikh Othman, Dar Sa'ad, Buraiaqa and Lahj. The AMF provides services to a large section of low-income individuals who are availing themselves of the services declined by commercial banks.

The Foundation finances several production and services projects within the areas of its activity. It supports several tricot, weaving, tailoring, brokerage, pottery, marine materials, silverware and other projects... in order to improve the living conditions of the poorer communities and encourage their activities and innovation.

Answering our questions on the characteristics of merging the old programs into the Foundation, the AMF's Executive Director, Mr. Manar Sallam, said that there were many positive aspects. The Foundation is now an official entity that can approach any viable source of support, he indicated. In addition, he added, pooling the expertise of the old programs has greatly raised the level of performance within the Foundation.

Ms. Intisar Al-Sariti, the AMF Sheikh Othman branch Director, revealed that the employees of the old programs had for a long time awaited the establishment of the Foundation. She added that they now feel more secured and safe, which facilitates expanding the lending process and seeking additional financiers for the Foundation.

Mr. Hisham Awlaqi, the owner of the nearby "Future Bookshop", and a client of the AMF, highly praised the Foundation's efforts in support of small enterprises, adding that he is now seeking a second loan to start a computer-service center adjacent to his bookshop.

It is worth mentioning that the number of clients of the Aden Micro-Finance Foundation has reached 5,879 persons by the end of September 2005, while the total of loans portfolio has reached Yemeni Rials413 million.

SFD-Supported Al-Guairi Water Project

Water springs from dunes

Al-Guairi village, located in Rudoum district (Shabwa governorate), lies amidst dunes and shadows of palm trees. The village's sole source of water used to be the natural springs running beneath the dense sandbanks. Dwellers suffered much in the past from collecting water sufficient for their household use and animal watering.



Nevertheless, the local community had identified school as its top priority. Therefore, the SFD supported the area with the reconstruction of a coeducation school, grades 1–8.

After this dream became a true, the people there—along with the SFD—started thinking of an appropriate way to access water easily. A simple idea sprang under the green palm trees, and the first steps for its realization immediately took off.

Making use of the flowing springs, the SFD financed the construction of small water tanks at levels lower than the running water's. Water started to collect into these reservoirs, which—in turn—poured the accumulated water into a relatively bigger tank (sited also at still lower level than the small basins). From this tank, water flows through pipelines to the population's houses.

By the beginning of 2004, Al-Guairi village had begun reaping the fruits of this successful subproject, and—later on—the nearby villages commenced benefiting from the piped water access.

Some of the members of the local beneficiary community were met to tell directly the actual effects of the project on their lives. All of them—including Awadh Sa'eed Awadh (Beneficiary Committee member) and Salem Abdul-Rahman and Khaled Saleh (community members) expressed favorable feelings towards the project and its benefits. Simply and explicitly speaking, they said that they have now a trouble-free and effortless access to sufficient amounts of safe water. They added, "In the past, we were compelled to cross the sand dunes to reach the springs for fetching water. But nowadays, thanks to the SFD-supported project, water currently flows into the tap ends inside our houses..."

Preparation for impact evaluation commenced

Two missions representing specialized int'l consultant firms visited the SFD in August and September 2005. The visit aimed to prepare for the impact evaluation of SFD interventions at the level of the households (HH) located within SFD intervention areas. The missions conducted field visits to some SFD-supported projects and met with a number of SFD's stakeholders at all levels (beneficiaries, central and local authorities).



The evaluation carries out by these firms will include a field survey of 6,000 HHs living within the sites of 300 SFD-supported subprojects and a qualitative study of a sample of 32 local settlements. In addition, the impact evaluation will include assessing, identifying and making recommendations to strengthen SFD contribution to the institutional capacity in the country.

Field evaluation is expected to launch next December. It is worth mentioning that the SFD is the first ever institution in Yemen that carries out impact evaluation of its interventions at the HH level. The first impact evaluation was conducted by the SFD in 2003.

Social Fund for Development

Faj Attan, P.O. Box 15485

Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

Tel: (967-1) 449 669/8, Fax: (967-1) 449 670

E-mail: sfd@sfd-yemen.org

www.sfd-yemen.org

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Editorial

The Social Fund for Development (SFD) contributes actively to supporting decentralization and local development in the country. The SFD has recognized that the Local Authority (LA) is an essential development partner and an effective link with local communities. However, the newly formed LA needs to be provided with capacity building and training.

The SFD and the Ministry of Local Administration (MoLA) have signed a Memorandum of Cooperation and Coordination, by which the SFD agreed to finance the provision of training programs serving local development projects. Accordingly, the SFD has intervened in supporting capacity building of Local Councils (LCs). This intervention has taken place in different modules and in gradual phases. In the first phase, training was provided to the LCs' Secretary-Generals and Heads of Specialized Committees (SCs). Training included development concepts, project lifecycle and analyzing organizational as well as institutional hurdles. The second phase provided training support to the members of the SCs on sustainable development and local-community participation.

Following the completion of the two phases, a need arose to train Planning and Budget Committees as well as executive bodies' Heads at the governorate and district level. Training, focusing on participatory development planning, has then been provided to LCs in certain governorates and districts. The rest of the districts are being currently provided with such training programs. So far, more than 5,619 LC members have already benefited from this training.

In the same context, the Decentralization and Local Development Support Program (DLDSP) has been co-financed and technically overseen by the SFD, the UNDP and MoLA. The SFD has contributed to expanding the program through financing its pilot implementation in 10 districts distributed in three governorates. In addition, training activities and preparation of comprehensive development plans had been completed in 2004 in two districts of Taiz governorate, with the financial support reaching \$200,000.

The DLDSP—carried out at the governorate and district level—aims primarily to contribute to building the capacity of the local councils and ensuring the success of the development process.

The SFD organizes the "Small and Micro Enterprises Week"

Under the auspices of H. E. Abdulkader Bajammal, the Prime Minister, the SFD organized the "Small and Micro Enterprises Week" during the period 07–13 September 2005. The event took place in Al-Sab'een Park in the Capital City under the motto "Dreams Come True". The opening ceremony was attended by H. E. the Premier and a number of ministers and other senior officials. Mr. Abdulkarim Ismail Al-Arhabi, Minister of Social Affairs & Labor and SFD's Managing Director, wrapped up the activity on 13 September 2005 and held a Press Conference at SFD main office.



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Banking sector seminar to introduce small and micro enterprises



Under the auspices of the President's Political Advisor, Dr. Abdulkarim Al-Iryani, and Minister of Social Affairs and Labor/SFD's Managing Director, Mr. Abdulkarim Al-Arhabi, and in cooperation with the Bank of Cairo, the second seminar to introduce small and micro enterprises (SMEs) to the banking sector was organized on 10 September 2005. All the banks representing the sector in Yemen, in addition to the Yemen Central Bank and the Banking Institute were represented in the event. The seminar discussed the experience of the Bank of Cairo in microfinance as well as that of the SFD in SMEs.

The seminar aimed at encouraging commercial banks to invest into the provision of small and micro financial services, and at highlighting the significant role played by the banks to enhance the industry at the governorate level in Yemen.

Awareness and training courses for university student volunteers

The awareness and training courses organized by the SFD for Sana'a University rural student volunteers were concluded on 31 August 2005. The closing ceremony was attended by Mr. Abdulkarim Ismail Al-Arhabi, Minister of Social Affairs & Labor and SFD Managing Director. Al-Arhabi delivered a speech in which he hailed the efforts of the trainers and trainees, indicating to the importance of the role of university students in developing their communities.

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Tajikistan mission visits SFD

A mission of the Tajikistani Investment Fund for Development (NSIFT) paid a visit to the SFD during the period 18–24 August 2005. The mission was headed by Mr. Zardov Sh., Executive Director of NSIFT, and comprised Mr. Sharipov Z., Specialist/PRSP Monitoring Unit of President's Office, and Mr. Iskhokov M., Director of Aid Coordination Unit, in addition to other senior NSIFT officials.

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In its third meeting for the current year

The Board of Directors approves SFD's 2006 budget

The Board of Directors of the Social Fund for Development held on 10 September 2005 its third meeting for the current year under the chairmanship of H.E. Abdulkader A. Bajammal, the Prime Minister and Chairman of the Board. The Board approved SFD's general budget for the forthcoming fiscal year (2006). The budget, totaling about YR19,030 million, covers the estimated cost of 1,315 projects planned for the next year. The projects are distributed over the different governorates and among SFD's main sectors and programs. These are education, water, environment, training, organizational support, health, groups with special needs, rural roads, small and micro enterprise development, integrated intervention and cultural heritage.

The Board of Directors emphasized that the local and government contribution in 2006

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SFD cumulative investments reach \$402m.

The SFD organizes the "Small and Micro Enterprises Week"... (Continued)

The Premier delivered a speech at the opening ceremony, in which he indicated that the government had realized the importance of small and micro-enterprise sector, and confirmed the continuity of the government's support to these enterprises. He expressed appreciation to the Social Fund's initiative in carrying out such activities, and praised the overall performance of the SFD and its staff.

Mr. Al-Arhabi, also delivered a statement; he retrieved the early efforts made by the SFD to support small and micro-enterprises. He added that the SFD has carried out well-studied steps to contribute to the sector development, with its interventions focusing on building local capacities to provide financial as well as non-financial services.

At the Press Conference, held in conclusion of the week and attended by representatives of the different local media, the Managing Director indicated that the event aimed to raise public awareness about the economic importance of small and micro-enterprises, and encourage the poor to gain access to such services and improve their living conditions. He emphasized the potential of microfinance services in creating job opportunities with relatively much less investment cost. Mr. Al-Arhabi added that the number of clients that benefited from the YR3.5-billion loans offered by the SFD reached 80,000, and that it is expected to increase to 200,000–300,000.

The event came as the second annual activity promoting for the small and micro enterprises in the country; the first one ("The Small Enterprises Days") was held in August 2004.

Several activities were carried out during the "Small and Micro Enterprises Week", including a workshop, lectures, theatrical plays, poems, popular songs and dances as well as a microfinance fair, in which certain clients demonstrated and directly sold their products.

The event involved SFD's partner microfinance associations and NGOs representing microfinance programs nationwide—including SFD-supported ones. The event aimed to raise awareness about small and micro-enterprises—particularly microfinance—as well as to help authorities recognize the difficulties facing these enterprises. It also aimed at increasing official support for these enterprises and ensuring a suitable environment for their activities. In addition, the event's objectives included encouraging individual economic self-initiatives, fostering a labor-respecting culture, mobilizing sufficient public and official interest for the event and promoting the provision of financial services to such enterprises. The event also sought to initiate a broader dialogue on microfinance, its role and its potential for growth, as well as honor individuals and entrepreneurs who have actively assisted small enterprises and supported programs for them.



NEWS

SFD's Periodic Meeting Convened

The SFD held its periodic meeting on 27–29 September 2005 under the chairmanship of Mr. Abdulkarim Ismail Al-Arhabi, Managing Director, and with the participation of SFD's Unit Heads and Branch Offices' Managers.

The meeting was opened by a speech delivered by the Managing Director, in which he re-emphasized the importance of applying and abiding by a host of SFD performance-related issues, including targeting, sustainability, efficiency, transparency and community participation.

Important issues were discussed in the meeting, including implementation of the 2005 work-plan, targeting policies, general trends of 2006 work-plan and evaluation methodology for the next year.

The meeting was concluded by the Managing Director's statement that sustainable development and real change are unlikely unless the volunteer work is upgraded and taken care of. He also pinpointed to community participation, development of collective and individual initiatives and encouraging volunteer activities as essential tools in implementing SFD's projects and programs and ensuring their sustainability.

The Managing Director meets EU officials

Mr. Abdulkarim Al-Arhabi, SFD Managing Director, met on 06 July 2005 with Mr. Andrea Macini, EU's Yemen-Affairs Officer, and Dr. Ralph Dryer, EU Country Resident Representative. Mutual cooperation between the SFD and the EU were discussed during the meeting.

SFD-supported libraries inaugurated

SFD's Managing Director, Mr. A. I. Al-Arhabi, inaugurated on 17 July 2005 a number of libraries financed by the SFD in the Capital City. Inauguration was attended by representatives of the Mayor Office and SFD's Training and Organizational Support Unit.

Cooperation between SFD and UNDP discussed

A meeting was held on 24 July 2005 at SFD's main office in Sana'a between SFD's Managing Director, and Mrs. Flavia Bansairi, UNDP Resident Representative, and a number of UNDP officials. During the meeting, cooperation aspects between the two parties were discussed.

The British Ambassador received by the MD

Mr. Abdulkarim Al-Arhabi, the Managing Director, met on 23 August 2005 with H.E. Mike Gifford, Ambassador of Great Britain to Yemen. Aspects of mutual cooperation between the SFD and the GB Government, represented by the British Embassy, were discussed.

Rain-fed agriculture discussed with the WB

SFD Managing Director attended the meetings held on 28 July and 08 August 2005 with the World Bank's rain-fed agriculture mission. The meetings discussed aspects related to the launch of a rain-fed-agriculture project aiming to cover 22 districts in five governorates practicing this type of agriculture.

SFD's Proposal on gifted students presented, discussed

A meeting was held on 08 September 2005 at SFD's main office to present and discuss SFD proposal on working with the talented and excelled students. The meeting was attended by Mr. Abdulkarim Al-Arhabi, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor/ SFD Managing Director, Dr. Abdul-Salam Al-Jawfi, Minister of Education, Dr. Rasheed Saleh Ba-Rabba', Minister of Oil and Mineral Wealth, Dr. Abdul-Wahab Raweh, Minister of High Education, and Mr. Ahmad Al-Kahlani, Minister of State/Capital Mayor. The proposal was prepared by Dr. Fat'hi Garwan, Head of the Arab Council for the Talented and Excelled, hosted by the SFD during the period 02–12 September 2005. The meeting was also attended by a representative of the Ministry of Telecommunication, Director of the Capital City's Education Office and Mrs. Jalilah Shuja'-Al-Deen, Head of SFD's Education Unit.

Water and Environment Unit

Water Sector

Eight projects were agreed to with a total cost of \$478.500. The total number of cumulative projects is 780, with the total commitments reaching \$49.9 million.

Water harvesting

- It was agreed to finance five rainwater-harvesting projects, for the implementation of 4 cisterns and 10 karifs. They include executing three settling basins, one communal tap, in addition to fencing. These projects are aimed to provide improved water for nearly 3,359 beneficiaries.
- It was also agreed to finance four other projects, in order to execute one cistern, a 4358-meter pipe-network, six water tanks, a communal water tap and one hand pump, to provide drinking water for about 8,772 beneficiaries.
- A project aimed for the institutional building of the Wadi Ain project in Shabwa governorate. The intervention includes providing stationary materials and some furniture for the operation and maintenance unit, in addition to the rehabilitation of the pumping unit and replacing a 700-meter long pipe network, to benefit 2,100 users.

Small dams

- In order to expand the cultivated land and maximize the available amounts of water for irrigation, it was agreed to implement one 50,000-m³ reservoir and a communal tap to benefit 2,100 users.

Training and awareness

- Seven health and environmental awareness campaigns were approved for water harvesting projects in order to train 245 health workers in this respect.
- The Al-Mukalla SFD branch organized a training course for consultants on low-cost water harvesting systems. The course was aimed at providing the trainees with the necessary skills to design low-cost water harvesting systems by exploiting the traditional know-how and the available local materials. The course was attended by 14 trainees.
- It was approved also to support a course on low-cost water harvesting systems for the SFD Aden branch consultants. It is expected that 20 consultants shall participate in the course.

Small and Micro Enterprises Unit

Two training courses in transparency

During the period from 26–29 August 2005, and in cooperation with the Arab Microfinance Network – Sanabel two training courses on transparency and training of trainers (the tools and best practices of microfinance) were organized by the SMED unit. The two courses aimed at giving participants the skills in reading financial statements, ratios, and to analyze and compare them to the international standards of CGAP and MIX. Twenty-nine participants representing to from the SMED unit and all the small and micro finance programs financed by SFD joined the courses.

The SFD partners' workshop on small and microfinance

As part of the promotional event of the "Small and Micro Enterprises Days", twenty-two participants representing all the small and micro enterprises programs and foundations joined the second workshop of SFD partners. During the workshop, progress and performance of the programs and foundations were presented, and their achievements were compared to the indicators planned for the second quarter of 2005. Also, the issue of establishing a microfinance network in Yemen was discussed.



Merfad Dam, Lab'ous/Yafe', Lahj governorate

Environment Sector

The total cumulative number of environment projects has reached 125. Commitments during this quarter mount to \$13,800 (covering three approved projects), which makes the total commitments in the sector reach \$16 million.

In pursuance of SFD's efforts to increase the coverage of sanitation services in poor communities, and improve their health and environmental conditions, the following activities were executed:

- A training course on designing and implementing biogas production units in rural areas was held during 20–31 August 2005. The course was attended by 28 trainees from various SFD branches, governmental and non-governmental institutions. The training course covered both practical and theoretical aspects, in addition to field visits, and was aimed at providing the participants with the necessary skills for preparing similar projects and supervising their implementation.
- A project for wastewater management at Huraidha town, Hadhramout was financed, and the physical progress reached about 85%. The project is composed of main sewer lines and a wastewater treatment plant (WTP). The WTP was developed based on a successful Moroccan experiment. The treatment depends on the anaerobic process, which is normally associated with the emission of flammable gases and sludge in tiny quantities—compared to the anaerobic process. The treated effluent will be used for restricted irrigation, the sludge will be dried and utilized as soil conditioner and the gases will be collected and used to operate a small electric generator, which—in turn—will operate the de-sludging pump.



The current issue of SFD's quarterly newsletter appears in a new, hopefully better, form.

Any comments and/or suggestions to reach further improvement of the newsletter will be highly welcome. SFD's staff members and all the readers are kindly requested to forward their comments either through the "snail" mail or e-mail—both shown on the newsletter and other SFD publications.

Health and Social Protection Unit

Health Sector

Supporting establishment of health facilities

- During the quarter, rehabilitation of the health centers at Haboor and Al-Ushah was concluded. In addition, civil works at the Turba health unit (Mazhar, Muthaikhirah, Ibb governorate) were finalized.
- Building of two health units at Salal village (Al-Huraf Al-Asfal, Khamer, Amran governorate) and at Al-Agarimah (Qafil Shamer, Hajjah governorate) was commenced.

Improving education in health institutes

- Ten health institutes were provided with computers and other education aid materials in order to improve the educational process in these institutes.
- A workshop specializing in developing a strategic plan for the institutes was organized. It was attended by all directors and deans of the institutes, in addition to some of the Heads of Sections. A draft plan is being prepared by experts and shall be submitted to the institutes for further revision.
- The first workshop on the development of curriculums was concluded. Concepts for a mechanism to modernize and develop curriculums were identified. The second workshop shall be held in the forthcoming months.

Access of targeted communities to health providers

- Training of 15 traditional midwives from among the marginalized group in Al-Udain district (Ibb governorate) was set upon. Another group of 45 traditional midwives from three districts of the governorate concluded their training through the Islah Welfare Society.

Reproductive health services and neonatal care

- The process of following-up and supervision of 21 projects continues. Five of these projects support hospitals in governorates and districts to upgrade Premature and Neonatal Section, as the SFD had acquired the agreement of the World Bank for two projects to equip such sections at the Al-Thawrah and Jiblah hospitals in the Capital City and Ibb governorates—respectively.
- All bids for emergency-delivery projects and their furnishing were announced. Moreover, some equipment for completed hospitals has been received.

Special Need Groups

Integration of targeted disadvantaged children in public education

- A project was signed to integrate 215 children from the marginalized group in four public schools in Taiz. For this purpose, 6 classrooms will be added in Ba-Katheer School (for these children as well as for the other students). The project includes also providing training on the integration process to the school headmasters, specialists and the parent councils' members.
- Another project was also signed to train six of the administrators and instructors of the Wadi and Sahara Association for the Blind (Hadhramaut) in teaching the blind by Braille.

Providing the inclusive education schools with trained university graduates

- A number of experts were called in to evaluate the Inclusive Education Program for the period 2001–2004, according to its declared goals and anticipated results at the concerned agencies. The evaluation shall figure out the challenges that faced the project and how to tackle them, and uncover the aspects that were successful or had a role in the project's success, so that they can be consolidated and built upon in implementing the other aspects of the project. In addition, the evaluation shall identify the lessons gained and come out with a strategy and recommendations to develop the program, based on the concept and objectives of the Inclusive education – to ensure the proper integration of disadvantaged children.

Access of disabled children to qualified services and assistance

- Two projects were signed to implement a community-based program for the rehabilitation of the disabled in Zabid district (Al-Hudaidah governorate) and Shawkan (Dhamar).



Training Center for Special Need - Aden

- A project was approved for training 20 SFD special-need trainers (trainers of public schools' and pre-integration classrooms' teachers). Training aims to provide participants with the necessary skills and techniques enabling them to provide training in a systematic manner.
- Another project was signed to prepare five teachers of the blind in the Capital City to become trainers in mobility of the blind (transfer, direction and orientation).

Rehabilitation and Pre-school Education of Disadvantaged Children

- A project was approved to develop a kindergarten for the blind children in the Capital City and train 11 of its female teachers on early education.

Orphans, Street Children and Delinquent Juveniles

- Two experts were called in: One to prepare an organizational regulation for orphanages, and the other to evaluate the technical situation of Safe Childhood Centers (hosting street children) and to prepare an executive plan to upgrade these centers.
- A project was signed for training and raising awareness of 30 participants from different institutions involved in working with juveniles, including Juvenile Court and Prosecution, Ministries of Information and Religious Endowment, Wadi Hadhramaut Police and civil society organizations). The project aims to acquaint participants with juvenile centers and their role, the technical procedures followed in caring for juveniles, how to deal with this group of children within the center, the approaches adopted in juvenile care from social-service perspective. In addition, objectives include explaining the Law on Delinquent Juveniles and conventions on child rights.

Other activities

- A project was approved to support the marginalized-group dwellers of the New Sa'wan town by establishing a society for the town's overall population and a community educational center to carry out the educational and awareness programs as well as to **implement** kindergartens.

Integrated Intervention

As part of the efforts to evaluate the Integrated Intervention Program, and in preparation for the program's expansion proposal/ second phase, the following activities were carried out:

- A team was formed to conduct the socio-economic survey in eight sub-districts in the following districts of various governorates: Khamer, Al-Luhayya, Haradh, Al-Jabeen, Mawia, Al-Qafil, Wesab Al-Safel and Tour Al-Baha.
- The Qualitative and Quantitative Field Survey Teams were trained, with the participation of 8 and 24 members—respectively.
- The socio-economic survey forms were executed, followed up and revised with the fieldwork teams prior to delivering the forms to the consultant assigned for analysis.
- The field survey team was followed up at the fieldwork sites.
- The PRA team was formed, and the initial needs study conducted in the Al-Luhayya and Mawia districts.
- A seven-day training course was organized for 15 women in the Ambasti, Hanadh and Mihsamah villages (Ahwar district, Abyan governorate) on vegetable processing and conservation. Training aimed to provide the participants with the necessary skills and know-how in manufacturing and conserving foodstuffs and, hence, help improve household nutrition and create job opportunities for the trained women.
- Another ten-day training course was organized for nine women in the three villages in the animal-wealth field, to provide trainees with skills and knowledge in animal health and production.

Education Unit

In the quarter, the number of education projects has reached 38, with an estimated cost of \$4 million. The cumulative number of projects has reached 2,517 at a total estimated cost of \$222.6 million.

Supporting basic education infrastructure

Twenty-five projects were approved in the quarter for supporting basic education: 13 of these projects are specified for constructing schools in different districts throughout the country. Other projects include fencing and furnishing a number of SFD-supported schools.

Preschool education

The first batch of female preschool teachers' training courses was launched in Aden governorate in September 2005. Six 12–14-day courses were held so far. These will be followed by other training courses to be held in Aden in October and November 2005. The SFD is also preparing to organize similar training courses for female preschool teachers in number of areas in the Republic (Abyan, Lahj, Al-Maharah, Al-Mukalla, Wadi Hadhramaut, Sana'a, Al-Hudaidah, Taiz, Ibb...)

Quality Education Program

Activities of the program focused—during the quarter—on training and workshops as follows:

- Training teachers of grades 1–3 in quality-education schools. Training includes phonetics, main skills in teaching children to read and write, in addition to the management of the classroom, homework and exams... The training was provided in two phases: The first during 02-31 August 2005 and the second on 10-30 September 2005;
- Forming and training 20 Parents' Councils in quality schools; these schools are 22 may, Al-Salam, Saif Bin Dhi-Yazan, Hafsa, Martyr Mohammed Matar Zaid, Abdulkarim Alnazary, Abu-Baker Al-Razi and Mo'adh Bin Jabal (in the Capital City) and Abdul-Khaleq Azzan (Sana'a Governorate) as well as Mohammed Al-Dourrah (Amran);
- Training was provided to the quality-education schools' English teachers (male and female) through a three-month intensive course at a specialized institute. In addition, teachers were trained in classroom management, teaching methodology, proper ways of teaching English book in these schools, phonetics, assigning homework and exams. Training was provided on 19–28 September 2005;
- A workshop was held for the Capital City quality schools' headmasters and headmistresses as well as education office directors, in addition to the directors of the educational areas, to which the schools are affiliated. The workshop aimed to discuss the difficulties faced while implementing the Quality Education Programs in the Capital City's schools.

Rural Girls' Education Program

Activities carried out within the program included the following:

Training

Training course in school activities was held on 25 June–01 July 2005, with the participation of 22 male and 5 female trainees (supervisors of school activities) in the program's intervention schools in Sa'adah, Amran, Al-Hudaidah, Taiz, Al-Dhale' governorates. The course comprised three main stages. The first was an initial phase, and focused on childhood issues (needs of childhood, growth of basic-education children and the required educational role...) as well as child games (importance of playing in child growth, learning through playing, playing inside and outside the school and popular games...). The second stage presented school activities, and pinpointed the practical aspects of the summer club activities. It included the essence of school activity, development of "school activity" concept, its objectives and types, participation of children in school activities, and school activity planning. In the third stage, a proposition was discussed with regard to the establishment of a club for each school.



Awareness festival to support Girls' Education in Amran governorate

- Training workshop (on 16–17 July 2005) was organized in methods and ways of impact post-evaluation. Eight community-participation consultants (for supporting rural girls' education "Amran team") participated in the workshop.

- A training course was held for 23 community education facilitators, 15 of whom are female, from Taiz, Al-Hudaidah and Sa'adah governorates. The course, organized during 28 September–03 October 2005, is the first of three training courses aiming to create positive attitudes in education issues and to enable them to acquire the necessary pedagogic knowledge and skills required for the educational process. Participants are also trained on the management of classrooms with various levels and application of educational curricula and accompanying programs.

Construction and rainwater harvesting

- Bids were announced, analyzed and awarded for constructing Al-Thawra Girls' School (in Al-Sakhna, Al-Hudaidah governorate).
- A preliminary socio-economic survey was carried out for the sites suggested in Al-Maja'asha sub-district (Makbana /Taiz) for carrying out interventions included in the Education Unit's 2006 plan. The survey aims to pave the way to intervene through the construction of two schools, adding three girls-only classrooms and rehabilitation of two coed schools.
- In close coordination with SFD's Taiz Branch Office, a preliminary survey was conducted in Al-Maja'asha sub-district for the selection of areas for rainwater-harvesting projects included in next year action plan. An ex post evaluation was conducted to measure the impact of the construction and rehabilitation of a number of cisterns and al-mawajel in Bani Utaifa sub-district (Al-Souda /Amran) on girls enrolment in basic education.

Awareness component

In the quarter, 5 awareness campaigns were organized to support the Rural Girls' Education Program, in the sub-districts targeted by the program (in Sa'adah, Amran, Al-Hudaidah, Taiz and Al-Dhale' governorates). Participants included the community-participation consultants supporting rural girls' education, Education Offices, local councils, parents' councils in the targeted schools, local volunteer teams supporting girls' education, local and international organizations, students (male and female) and prominent social figures. The campaigns included speech, artistic and awareness events focusing on the importance of girls' education. Speeches were given by the MPs, area directors, Education Offices, chairpersons of the local councils as well as representatives of parents, women associations and the SFD.

Other activities

A number of educational toys and cultural equipment were distributed for student clubs that have been established in the 14 program-intervention schools.

Cultural Heritage & Rural Roads Unit

Cultural Heritage Sector

• Conclusion of Works at Historical Bridge

Restoration and rescue Works at Amer bin Abdul-Wahab Bridge, Damt district was concluded during this quarter. It was recently in a very critical condition and could have collapsed any time in a rainy season. The bridge extends over Wadi Bana, known for its strong and sweeping floods. The restoration indicates the success of the approach adopted by the SFD towards the capacity building and empowering of traditional restoration master builders. Materials extracted from the same area were used under the supervision of specialized traditional professional. Samples of these materials were tested at the Faculty of Engineering, Sana'a University. The project and its basic components provided a good training opportunity for many youths to deal with traditional Qadhadh and Qatra (traditional building materials) used in the process. Sana'a University academic experts, a representative of the General Authority of Antiquities and Museums and a traditional architect supervised the works, in addition to an archeologist. A master builder, who had participated in its restoration in the 1940s, was also involved.

- During the quarter, works on illuminating the majority of Old Sanaa City streets and squares commenced. It shall greatly help in improving and bring out the historical features of Old Sanaa.
- Works on improving the front yard of the National Museum were concluded. It is worthy to mention here that these works are in continuation to previous projects in which the SFD had taken part in order to rehabilitate and upgrade the capacity of the National Museum.
- In coordination with Al-Ahqaf Library of Manuscripts, the first phase of support for rehabilitating the Library was launched. Support also covers the rehabilitation of the internal spaces and the Library and a training program for conservation of manuscripts.
- A training program for 16 cadres from the Sana'a Manuscripts Library was accomplished on basic computer skills in preparation for using the special programs presented by UNISCO for the cataloguing of manuscripts.
- Works were commenced on restoring the Mahan bin Imran Mosque, at **Zaalaa**, Sa'adah, Ibb governorate. Cracked parts in



Aamer bin Abdulwahab preidge - Damt

the building, Qadhadh works and the wooden painted ceilings, which had suffered from humidity and rodents, shall be restored or repaired. During the process, three persons shall be trained on the basic rules of disassembling and restoring historic wooden decorations.

Rural Roads Sector

The number of feeder roads approved during the third quarter of the year was four, with an estimated cost reaching \$568,000. The cumulative number of feeder-road projects is 189 and their estimated total cost has reached \$20.7 million.

- Three feeder-road projects were completed during this quarter in Ibb and Taiz governorates.
- Four projects were approved: Two in Ibb (Al-Haiga "Al-Nazeeha-Hudhaifa"-Al-Ghareb "Al-Badiya - Al-Ghareb - Al-Hugaf" - Al-Ahmool, (in Al-Udain district) and Al-Sana'ah - Al-Qala'ah - Bani-Ali (in Mudhaikhira district); one road project in Taiz (Azban - Bani-Buhair - Azban) "in Shar'ab Al-Salam district" and another in Amran (Gabal-Maswar subdistrict rural road "in Maswar district".
- During the same quarter, a workshop for SFD road project officers was organized to discuss the road projects' design and assess the impact of the increase in fuel prices on the per-capita and per-km cost threshold.

The Community Contracting Program

Within the framework of the 2005 Annual Work Plan, 74 Community Committees' members were trained (including 12 female) from 8 rural-road and education projects. In addition, implementation of five new rural-road projects and five education projects under the community-contracting procedure commenced.

reduction strategy, formal and informal education, health, water, environment, communication, child rights, disability, establishment of associations, structure of local authority and Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA) approach. Trainees included 680 rural university students from the governorates of Sana'a, Mareb, Hajjah, Amran, Sa'adah and Al-Mahweet.

Tajikistan Mission Visits SFD... (continued)

Meetings were held between the mission members and SFD's Managing Director, Mr. Abdulkarim I. Al-Arhabi, as well as Heads of relevant units.

The visit aimed to exchange experiences and present mechanisms of subproject implementation. In addition, the mission conducted field visits to a number of SFD-supported subprojects and programs in the Capital City and Amran and Hajjah governorates.

Awareness and training courses for university student volunteers... (continued)

Emphasizing the significance of initiatives and collective work as a basis for development, the Managing Director highlighted the social capital as a key factor in achieving progress. He added that the SFD looks forward to seeing the fruitful outcomes of such courses in terms of forming relevant associations and setting programs that might yield overall benefit. In conclusion, Al-Arhabi pledged to continue communicating with trainees and extend assistance to their communities. In his turn, Professor Dr. Khaled Tumaim, Vice-Rector of Sana'a University for Students' Affairs, asserted - in his speech - the importance of partnership between Sana'a University and the SFD in favor of the country's development.

It is worth mentioning that the courses covered several topics such as the poverty

In its third meeting for the current year... (continued)

budget remains at the same 2005 budget ceiling. It assigned SFD's Management to coordinate with the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation in seeking external financing to attain next year's plan. The Board also highlighted project prioritization, focusing on economic and social development and coordination with the relevant agencies to avoid duality and repetition in project implementation.

It is worth mentioning that (since 1997 and by the end of June 2005) the SFD had committed \$396 million to 5,126 projects. These projects provided access to basic services for about 12.8 million direct and indirect beneficiaries nationwide, and generated 15 million days of employment.

NEWS – Continue from the first page

Training and Organizational Support Unit

The number of projects in the sectors of training and organizational support during the 2nd quarter of the year reached 13, with estimated cost exceeding \$130,000. By now, the cumulative number of projects is 618, with estimated total cost of \$15 million. These projects targeted the NGOs, local associations, public libraries, governmental institutions, the private sector and the local authorities.

Training Sector

Training is aimed at enhancing knowledge and capacity building of stakeholders in all the fields of their activity. It includes administrative and financial training, strategic planning, preparation of plans and reports and credit procurement as well as improving the quality of training services of the income-generating activities through the training of trainers. In addition, components of training comprise problem analysis, goal description, follow-up and evaluation, training on the PRA approach, communication and connection skills, evaluation of agriculture-development projects, bookkeeping and capacity building of beekeepers. During this quarter, the following parties benefited from the training sector projects:

NGOs (7 projects)

Five projects were targeted towards five welfare and cooperative societies in the governorates of Dhamar, Taiz, Marib and al-Jawf. The training courses included the fields of planning, credit procurement and were aimed at up lifting the efficiency of their leaderships and organizing their administrative and financial departments. The other two projects were the training and preparation of two food-processing units for two interested agricultural societies in Hodeida and Sanaa governorates.

The Private Sector (2 projects)

Both of these projects aimed at enhancing the capacities of the local consultants. The first project concentrated at composing communal committees (User Committees) and training their members by providing them with the theoretical knowledge and practical implementation skills. The other project was a training workshop for the capacity building of the members of these committees in procurement fields and the operating mechanism of the SFD.

Local Associations (2 projects)

One of the projects was aimed at training and capacity building of 18 associations of User Committees in Dhamar and Baidha governorates, covering their administrative, financial, organizational and supervision duties and roles, while the other project had to do with sustainable agriculture, and the fields of (hereditary roots) and the formation of groups consisting of farmers, researchers and agricultural instructors to be chosen from through field workshops in 11 regions of pluvial agriculture in 11 governorates. It is worth mentioning that this project is a second phase and is a continuation of its first phase.

The Organizational Support Sector

The Public sector (One project)

This project is a 2nd phase of the support provided to the Revolution combatants and Martyr's Families Authority. This support currently includes providing the Authority with computers and requirements to equip and organize its archives and operations. The project is also interested in training the relevant employees at the Authority on computer maintenance and applications.

NGOs (One project)

The women branch of the Social Care and Solidarity Society in Taiz benefits from this project. Through this intervention the leadership of women branch is being trained, equipped and provided with the relevant requirements in correspondence with the activities of the Society, which raises the level of performance and rendered services.



Awareness Courses for some Student form Sana'a Governorates

Accomplished projects in training and organizational support

1. The Local Authorities (3 projects)

These projects fall under the SFD's orientation to support local development and decentralization, and are aimed to build the capabilities of the local authorities in planning and budget preparation in Sa'adah, Hajjah and Amran governorates. Nearly 760 participants from the three governorates have benefited from the project.

2. Follow-up and evaluation (2 projects)

The Training and Organizational Support Unit occasionally assumes the evaluation and field follow-up of implemented projects in all training and Organizational spheres. In this sequence, two projects were accomplished during this quarter: The first project paid its attention to following up and evaluation of the training agricultural programs executed for cooperative farmers and apiarists on Mango fertilization and apiculture. The other project was concerned with the evaluation and follow up of the Users Committees, which were established and systematically trained by the Unit. Several of these committees were chosen from some governorates, and the prepared forms were filled on the field. According to the results other relevant practical moves were later taken: an exemplar committee in al-Mahwit governorate was transformed into a society that will receive Organizational support.

3. The Private sector (3 projects)

Because of the need to provide trainers in the administrative and financial fields of societies, a project was concluded in this aspect. It took the shape of a training course from which 25 participants, chosen from more than a governorate, benefited. Another training project was aimed at upgrading the capacities of the leaders of cooperative societies in accounting and administration. A third project has concentrated on providing 50 participants (from both genders) - who had received some earlier training- several energizing training doses, renewing their old knowledge and equipping them with modern training skills.

4. Project officers 'both genders' (One project)

Within the methodology adopted by the SFD, which is grounded on the 'the training course' and its diverse factors, feeding-back is considered one of the most important and perfecting factors. And in order to mend some aspects of inadequacy among project officers working in some SFD branches, a training course was held to raise their capacities on the basis and practical implementation in identifying and analyzing problems and the training and institutional needs during field sorting out studies, the process which determines directing the targeting and implementing the most suitable interventions.

Other Activities

Activities abroad

During 11-21 September 2005, 13 training and social protection officers working at SFD HQ and branches took part in the training course titled "Training and its Impact on the Productivity of Modern Management" which was organized by the Global Center for Administrative Systems and Sciences in Amman, Jordan. The aim of the course was to raise the capacities of participants in practical and executive applications of the training plans and how to identify the training needs and follow-up and evaluation programs. In addition to the theoretical subjects, the course included field visits to some welfare societies and institutions, and international centers. The most important of them were the "Noor al-Husain" Institution, "Anas" International Center, the National Aid Fund, and the "Idrak" Private Education Institution.

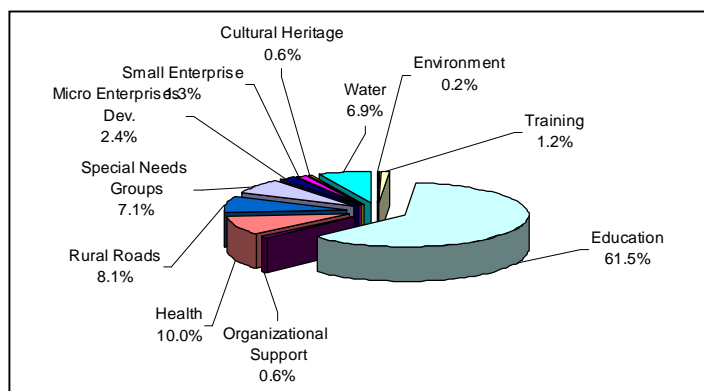
Microfinance Programs Supported by SFD (on 30-9-2005)

No	Program	Active number of clients				Outstanding loan portfolio (Million YR)	PAR (%)	Cumulative numbers		Area of Operation
		Borrowers		Savers				Number of loans	Loan amounts (Million YR)	
		Total	Women (%)	Total	Women (%)					
1	Al-Hudaidah MC	2,011	55	0	0	22.53	0%	12,516	403	Al-Hudaidah city and Bajil - Al-Hodaidah gov.
2	LSED- Hais	1,347	91	2,464	89	54.32	4%	3,963	161	Hais, Khoukha, Jabal Ras, Zabid Al-Hodaidah gov.
3	Wadi Hadhramaut	721	8.60	186	100	27.67	10%	1,504	101	Seyun – Hadhramaut gov.
4	Aden MF Foundation	5,879	83	9,274	85	132.35	10%	12,461	413	Dar Sa'ad, Al-Bureikah, Al-Mu'alla, Tawahi, Crater, Khor- Maksar, Sheikh Othman – Aden, Lahj
5	Sana'a MF	1,735	81.5	980	100	35.37	3%	4,945	204	Sana'a Capital
6	National MF Foundation	7,469	100	10,661	100	118.46	3%	14,848	445	Sana'a Capital, Taiz, Qaedah and Yarim in Ibb and Dhamar
7	Bait Al-Faqeeh S & C	1,151	95	1,162	94	13.04	4%	2,125	44	Bait Al-Faqih, Mansouriyah – Al-Hodaidah gov.
8	Sana'a Microstart (SOFD)	206	100	0	0	1.30	0%	7,733	122	Sana'a Capital
9	Al-Awa'el MF Company	2,016	100	0	0	22.29	8%	10,170	220	Taiz
10	Abyan S & C	1,321	100	2,088	100	29.18	0%	2,705	67	Abyan
11	Other Activities & IGPs	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	6,895	260	Several areas
12	Small Enterprise Development Fund	1,215	2.30	0	0	502.00	11%	3,604	2,265	Sana'a Capital, Taiz, Aden, Al-Mukalla, Al-Hudaidah
Total		25,071	-	26,815	-	958.51	-	83,469	4,705	

NA= Not available/applicable

MC = Micro Credit, S&C = Saving and Credit, MF= Micro finance, IGPs =Income generating projects.

Commitments by sector, second quarter 2005



Commitments by governorate, second quarter 2005

Governorate	No. of projects	Commitments (\$)	Distribution (%)
Ibb	4	571,350	8.2%
Abyan	2	318,789	4.6%
Al-Baidha	2	75,490	1.1%
Al-Jawf	4	65,600	0.9%
Al-Hudaidah	12	1,430,835	20.5%
Al-Dhale'	3	409,665	5.9%
Al-Mahweet	2	348,715	5.0%
Al-Mahrah	0	0	0.0%
Sana'a City	5	446,364	6.4%
Several governorates	23	368,977	5.3%
Taiz	6	732,930	10.5%
Hajjah	1	92,060	1.3%
Hadhramaut	6	583,812	8.4%
Dhamar	8	506,256	7.3%
Shabwah	2	62,510	0.9%
Sa'adah	0	0	0.0%
Sana'a	4	491,620	7.0%
Aden	1	103,650	1.5%
Amran	1	97,920	1.4%
Lahj	2	263,705	3.8%
Mareb	2	8,600	0.1%
Total	90	6,978,848	100.0%

Expected number of beneficiaries and job opportunities, second quarter 2005, by sector

Sector	Beneficiaries		Temporary job opportunities
	Direct	Indirect	
Environment	94	0	91
Integrated Intervention	0	0	0
Training	359	0	374
Education	9,496	0	165,998
Organizational Support	15	0	398
Health	15,462	60,884	23,820
Rural Roads	26,928	584	47,325
Special Needs Groups	6,599	0	9,385
Micro Enterprises Dev.	2,678	28,820	83
Small Enterprise	220	10,400	150
Cultural Heritage	0	0	1,000
Water	26,177	0	14,498
Total	88,028	100,688	263,122

