

Salah-Al-Deen breathes fresh and clean air

The Salah-Al-Deen area, located in Al-Buraiqah district (formerly "Little Aden") in Aden governorate, was provided with a sanitation network in the fifties of the past century.

Though the network was supported by seven pumps, it had been eroded and worn out by both time and lack of maintenance. As a result, wastewater gush from all the components of the network. Wastes invaded the city's streets and aisles, and the area population almost choked of foul odors, with even the nearby suburbs converting to stagnant swamps, forming an appropriate flora for pollution to be widely spread and contagious diseases (such as malaria, diarrhea and intestinal worms and parasites) to flourish and disseminate.



Despair also prevailed, but just for a while. Hope started glimmering with the SFD, the district's Local Council and the National Water and Sanitation Authority (NWASA) local branch collaborating to tackle the situation. The four-fold solution encompassed the re-construction of an entirely new sanitary network, establishment of wastewater treatment plants, house connection of the network components and carrying out of environment and hygienic awareness activities.

The project implementation started in August 2003 and completed by April 2004. All the sufferings of the area's population were relieved, with the overall hygienic, environmental and health situation considerably improved.

The city has since been breathing fresh and clean air and the common diseases became part of the past now merely narrated. Furthermore, new job opportunities have been created to the locals.

The SFD contributed some \$154,400 to the project cost, with the NWASA and the benefiting community co-financing. Direct and indirect beneficiaries reach about 9,000.

“SMEPS” lunched its first project

The Small and Micro Enterprises Promotion Services (SMEPS) agency launched on 29/01/2006 a training program for small and micro- enterprises (SMEs) using the "Business Edge" curricula with the presence of Mr. Johan Blankenberg, Ambassador of Royal Netherlands in Sana'a, and Mr. Saad Sabrah, IFC representative in Sana'a.

This program—which will run for five years with financial support from the Dutch government—consists of training SMEs' owners and workers in leadership, management, HR, marketing and customer care as well as in accounting and finance. The training will be delivered via accredited Business Edge training providers.

In his speech, Mr. Johan Blankenberg stated that the Royal Netherlands, along with international partners, attempt to draw up a plan addressing the obstacles the SMEs are facing in Yemen, with due awareness that SMEs are vital towards reviving the economy of the country. The Dutch and international partners concluded the importance of establishing an appropriate environment for SMEs and the necessity of founding an organization that provides them with small loans. In addition, SMEs' need technical, management and finance information.

The Project Officer and IFC representative laid out the objectives and components of the program.

SFD 2006 impact evaluation

The fieldwork of the survey aiming to evaluate the impact of SFD's interventions at the household (HH) and project level has completed.

The survey—covering projects in different governorates—included about 6,000 HHs located within areas where 300 projects are being implemented (and/or have been completed) by the SFD. The survey was conducted by a field team that had been trained on 21–30 Jan. '06. The team comprised of 57 female interviewers and 28 supervisors and reviewers.

In addition to the HH and project survey, the impact evaluation includes a beneficiaries' assessment for a sample of 32 local communities. The results of the evaluation study are expected to be finalized by mid-2006.

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Social Fund for Development

Editorial

The Social Fund for Development (SFD) held a consultative workshop on January 25, 2006 in Sana'a. The purpose of the workshop was to involve SFD's partners/stakeholders in reviewing the findings of the institutional evaluation study, which was conducted late last year.

The workshop was very well attended by line ministries, local authorities, donors, NGOs and observers.

The process and results of the workshop were very well received by all attending partners. Participation in the discussion groups was serious and focused on issues of coordination and SFD's role in capacity building. Participants expressed that SFD's participative management procedures at the community level have been effective in producing positive results.

In addition, participants devoted particular interest to SFD's policy on program evaluation and relevant results that would help assess outcomes, both qualitatively and quantitatively. The views expressed during the workshop provided a positive and meaningful insight into how SFD is perceived by its stakeholders.

The wide participation in the event by the SFD's stakeholders reflects acknowledgement of the effective role the SFD plays in the overall development process in the country.

SFD Managing Director appointed Minister of Planning



By the Republican Resolution No. 8 for the year 2006, enacted on 12 February, concerning the cabinet reshuffle, Mr. Abdulkarim I. Al-Arhabi was appointed as Minister of planning and Int'l Cooperation, while retain his post as the SFD Managing Director.

Mr. Al-Arhabi had been the Minister of Social Affairs and labor since 2001.

The SFD staff avails this opportunity to felicitate the MD on the high confidence and responsibility granted to him by the Political Leadership.

SFD partners' consultative workshop

An SFD partners' consultative workshop and meeting were held on January 25, 2006 in Sana'a. Attendees included Dr. Abdul-Salam Al-Jawfi, Minister of Education, Dr. Muhammed Al-Nu'mi, Minister of Public Health and Population, Mr. Mustapha Rouis, WB Country Manager and



Mrs. Flavia Pansieri, UNDP Res. Rep. as well as representatives of donors, government agencies, foreign embassies and civil society organizations.

The events aimed to brief SFD's partners on the findings of the institutional evaluation (IE) study, which was conducted late in 2005. In addition, participants discussed SFD's modus-operandi in different domains and coordination with partners (including donors, beneficiaries, local communities, government, NGOs and individuals...).

Continued page 2

The Board of Directors holds 2006 first meeting

The SFD's Board of Directors (BoD) held on 04 February 2006 its first meeting for the current year. The meeting, headed by Mr. Alawi Saleh Al-Salami, Acting Prime Minister/BoD Chairman, discussed and approved the last meeting's minutes.

In addition, the BoD was briefed on the SFD's 2005 Achievement Report, which indicated to the SFD commitment to implement 953 projects at an estimated cost of \$87.4 million, out of the planned 1,035 projects estimated to cost \$80 million (with accomplishment reaching 92%). The meeting subsequently discussed the SFD's 2006 Annual Work Plan (AWP), projecting the implementation of 921 projects at an estimated cost of \$91.7 million. The BoD approved the AWP and called upon seeking additional funds to cover the plan commitments.

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Youth and Childhood
Conference convened

9

Chairperson of "Sanabel"
Board of Directors visits SFD

12

Small and Micro-enterprise
Promotion Services Agency
launches activities

Youth and Childhood Conference convened

Under the auspices of HE President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the Childhood and Youth Conference was convened on 19–22 February 2006. President Saleh also attended the closing session, in which HE was briefed on the scientific and technical studies prepared by a number of youth institutions. In the session, HE delivered a speech in which he appreciated the outcomes and recommendations of the conference.

The opening ceremony was attended by the Premier, Minister of Planning and Int'l Cooperation/SFD's MD, Minister of Youth and Sports/Chairman of the Steering Committee of the National Youth and Childhood Strategy, Minister of Labor and Social Affairs/Vice Chairman of the Steering Committee, Minister of State/Capital Mayor and the Secretary-General of the Motherhood and Childhood Higher Council (MCHC).

About 800 participants attended the conference, representing various national government agencies, NGOs, civil-society organizations and int'l organizations working in Yemen as well as representatives from Bahrain, Jordan, Malaysia and South Africa.

The conference focused on discussing the draft National Strategy for Childhood and Youth and the relevant Action Plan. The strategy aimed at joining all the national efforts to find solutions for all youth problems. Discussions sessions were held, headed by ministers and decision-makers of the relevant agencies. In addition, 12 discussion groups were formed to address the different issues pertaining to the strategy.

It is worth mentioning that the SFD contributed to the development of the strategy and providing financial and technical support. The strategy was also supported by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, MCHC, UNICEF and the World Bank.

SFD's partners' consultative workshop – continued from page 1

Addressed also was the issue of maintaining SFD's project investments through boosting partnership between the beneficiary communities and the stakeholders, enhancing monitoring and supervision aspects and adopting methodological mechanisms to benefit from successful int'l experiences in development initiatives.

Participants elaborately addressed the findings of the recently completed IE study in terms of facilitating access of beneficiaries to basic services as well as capacity building.

The IE was carried out according to the recommendation of the SFD's Joint Supervision Mission (December 2005) to extend the impact assessment to include (in 2006) an institutional evaluation and initiate a national dialogue on the SFD's role in the future. The IE is conducted within the SFD's monitoring and evaluation activities carried out once every three years. These aim to assess the impact of SFD-implemented development initiatives at the household level (in the areas falling within SFD interventions).

In addition, the IE aims to assess the impact of these interventions on supporting the national level reforms and contributing to building the capacity of the local communities and local authority in districts and governorates as well as bolster institutional capacities of the main targeted sectors.

Mr. Abdulkarim Al-Arhabi, SFD Managing Director (MD), presided over the workshop. He opened the workshop by introducing its objectives and emphasizing the potential contribution of the workshop to enhancing the SFD role in capacity building and providing institutional support at the central, decentralized and local levels, in addition to contributing to decentralization.

The MD also indicated that the methodology for the institutional evaluation evolved within Yemen's participation in the OECD (DAC) Pilot of Principles of Good International Engagement. It was decided to frame the institutional evaluation within this context and to review how SFD contributes to state building agendas, and to learn lessons that can be applied in the design of other Social Funds. Al-Arhabi also highlighted the significance of the IE in terms of recognizing weaknesses and strengths of SFD's projects and programs, aiming to strengthen the Fund's approach in local-community development.

On the other hand, the independent evaluation consultant indicated that the SFD has evolved into a successful and "model" organization in the Yemen context that operates on a nation-wide basis and has broadened participatory development efforts to rural and remote areas. She added that a particular strength is its contribution to nurturing governance structures at the decentralized and community level. The consultant indicated to the SFD's well-developed procurement systems, emphasizing that the SFD became a reliable partner committed to its mandates, assisting in benefiting from the int'l expertise and playing a major role in demonstrating and applying the best development practices. She highlighted the Fund's participatory approaches, transparency at all levels and efforts to pursue equity in access to services as well as contribution to putting in place the basis of a democratic system through community consultations.



Cumulative number of beneficiaries and job opportunities as of 31/3/2006, by sector

Sector	Beneficiaries		Temporary job opportunities
	Direct	Indirect	
Environment	1,652,696	46,923	639,328
Integrated Intervention	35,214	18,649	92,764
Training	27,183	106,619	85,151
Education	1,610,234	731,410	10,104,020
Organizational Support	499,805	400,232	312,698
Agriculture	4,360	0	3,783
Health	2,218,635	711,817	1,068,283
Rural Roads	1,592,302	1,034,084	1,695,284
Special Needs Groups	143,294	85,590	514,809
Micro Enterprises Dev.	84,600	379,261	16,636
Small Enterprise	34,610	66,425	15,821
Cultural Heritage	291,953	112,408	1,072,974
Water	1,983,437	174,839	2,287,696
Business development	10,600	20,300	290
Total	10,188,923	3,888,557	17,909,537

SFD cumulative commitments and contracted amounts as of 31/3/2006, by governorate

Governorates	No. of projects	Commitments(\$)	Contracted amounts(\$)
Al-Baidha	134	11,198,670	10,223,954
Al-Jawf	86	6,207,780	5,308,024
Al-Hudaidah	489	45,723,986	35,401,911
Al-Dhale'	93	9,153,755	6,030,491
Al-Mahweet	165	14,783,663	12,501,652
Al-Maharah	52	3,058,866	2,500,152
Abyan	115	9,559,453	8,293,752
More than one	428	19,633,118	14,229,111
Sana'a Capital	394	41,313,971	35,111,627
Ibb	474	41,811,282	30,102,392
Taiz	613	54,091,307	41,120,717
Hajjah	335	27,759,184	22,677,743
Hadhramaut	359	23,888,734	18,404,254
Dhamar	403	29,401,892	24,161,923
Shabwah	159	11,010,207	8,948,386
Sa'adah	136	11,351,865	9,194,713
Sana'a	379	27,102,290	21,646,505
Aden	158	16,077,558	12,983,732
Amran	327	24,648,136	22,605,791
Lahej	164	13,620,639	11,130,453
Mareb	78	7,092,315	4,371,402
Total	5,541	448,488,670	356,948,684

SFD cumulative commitments and contracted amounts as of 31/3/2006, by sector

Sector	No. of projects	Commitments (\$)	Contracted amounts (\$)
Environment	132	16,096,358	11,427,289
Integrated Intervention	40	2,257,263	2,462,180
Training	338	5,809,592	4,278,063
Education	2,721	252,978,865	200,324,958
Organizational Support	315	10,564,222	8,855,181
Agriculture	7	205,516	58,061
Health	432	33,358,146	27,052,131
Rural Roads	221	26,554,504	20,511,823
Special Needs Groups	289	18,495,549	14,769,890
Micro Enterprises Dev.	99	9,187,662	6,540,336
Small Enterprise	23	2,587,580	2,228,371
Cultural Heritage	138	19,555,458	11,754,133
Water	778	50,429,102	46,373,770
Business development	8	408,853	312,500
Total	5,541	448,488,670	356,948,684

Cumulative number of beneficiaries as of 31/3/2006, by gender

Gender	Beneficiaries	
	Direct	Indirect
Males	5,074,425	1,774,216
Females	5,114,498	2,114,341
Total	10,188,923	3,888,557

Completed projects as of 31/3/2006, by sector

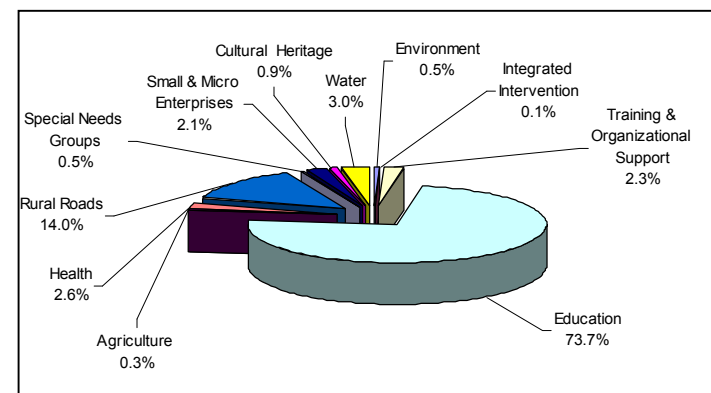
Sector	No. of projects	Investment (\$)
Environment	83	9,827,243
Integrated Intervention	28	1,436,690
Training	297	4,904,024
Education	1,845	140,328,077
Organizational Support	265	7,339,526
Agriculture	1	4,510
Health	307	19,467,910
Rural Roads	110	12,295,994
Special Needs Groups	193	11,489,462
Micro Enterprises Dev.	66	5,027,714
Small Enterprise	9	252,509
Cultural Heritage	36	4,472,445
Water	551	33,355,419
Total	3,791	250,201,522

Microfinance Programs Supported by SFD (on 31-3-2006)

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	2,637	77	0	0	27.8	0.1	16,143	444	Al-Hudaidah city and Bajil - Al-Hudaidah governorate
2	Hais S & C	989	96	989	96	37	25	4,460	183	Hais, Khoukha, Jabal Ras, Zabid Al-Hudaidah governorate
3	Wadi Hadhramaut	853	2.8	339	100	29	3.9	1,967	125	Seyun – Hadhramaut governorate
4	Aden MF Foundation	5,567	78	9,817	66	130	26	15,323	530	Dar Sa'ad, Al-Bureikah, Al-Mu'alla, Al-Tawwahi, Crater, Khormaksar, Sheikh Othman – Aden, Lahj
5	Sana'a MF	2,402	85	2,046	100	50.7	4.3	6,663	263	Capital City
6	National MF Foundation	8,604	100	10,314	100	183.7	3	19,736	640	Capital City, Taiz, Qa'edah and Yarim in Ibb and Dhamar
7	Bait Al-Faqeh S & C	895	91	984	92	13.242	13	3,007	63	Bait Al-Faqih, Mansouriyah – Al-Hudaidah governorate
8	Sana'a Microstart (SOFD)	436	79	0	0	4.5	0.1	7,941	130	Capital City
9	Al-Awa'el MF Company	2,678	100	0	0	27	4.8	12,665	263	Taiz
10	Abyan S & C	1,477	100	0	0	35.7	0	2,880	104	Abyan
11	Other Activities & IGPs	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	6,895	260	Several areas
12	Small Enterprise Development Fund	1,530	-	0	0	567	11	4,313	2,584	Capital City, Taiz, Aden, Al-Mukalla, Al-Hudaidah
Total		27,965	-	24,489	-	1,092	-	101,838	5,514	

NA= Not available/applicable
MC = Micro Credit, S&C = Saving and Credit, MF= Micro finance, IGPs =Income generating projects.

Commitments by sector, first quarter 2006



Expected number of beneficiaries and job opportunities, first quarter 2006, by sector

Sector	Beneficiaries		Temporary job opportunities
	Direct	Indirect	
Environment	34,156	0	42,394
Integrated Intervention	765	917	9,300
Training	18,022	31,073	117,893
Education	273,578	477,959	1029,079
Organizational Support	11,265	15	67,035
Agriculture	1,142	0	11,680
Health	4,586	53	42,798
Rural Roads	20,696	300	151,932
Special Needs Groups	21,910	822	32,397
Micro Enterprises	19,897	0	54,752
Cultural Heritage	10,015	0	12,420
Water	33,454	0	59,687
Business development	2,727	0	22,274
Total	452,213	511,139	1,653,641

Commitments by governorate, first quarter 2006

Governorate	No. of projects	Commitments (\$)	Distribution (%)
Al-Baidha	10	709,836	1.7
Al-Jawf	6	643,050	1.5
Al-Hudaidah	27	3,970,628	9.4
Al-Dhale'	7	1,056,890	2.5
Al-Mahweet	7	758,500	1.8
Al-Maharah	5	208,129	0.5
Abyan	1	132,500	0.3
More than one	45	2,012,648	4.8
Sana'a Capital	4	107,400	0.3
Ibb	48	6,585,323	15.6
Taiz	53	9,733,567	23.0
Hajjah	25	3,516,250	8.3
Hadhramaut	12	381,071	0.9
Dhamar	24	2,852,634	6.8
Shabwah	6	534,947	1.3
Sa'adah	8	1,489,000	3.5
Sana'a	22	3,437,242	8.1
Aden	5	1,487,050	3.5
Amran	14	1,163,605	2.8
Lahej	6	1,170,035	2.8
Mareb	3	281,000	0.7
Total	338	42,231,305	100

Education

Expanding and improving infrastructure for basic education

The program aims to achieve the government's goal of universal enrollment in basic education (grades 1–9) by 2015. During the quarter, 185 projects were approved for building, refurbishing and furnishing schools throughout the country.

Improving the quality of education

This pilot program is implemented in 18 schools distributed over 10 governorates. It aims to establish concepts of education quality, based on their effectiveness, through improving the performance of the teachers and administrators and introducing the interactive learning as well as enhancing systems, regulations and directives.

The following activities were carried out during the quarter:

- Training was provided on 22 Jan.–24 Feb. 2006 in computer software skills. Trainees included 6 headmasters and 6 headmistresses, 37 headmaster deputies (17 male & 20 female), 34 teachers (11 male & 23 female) and 12 social workers (3 male & 9 female).
- During the periods (6–10 February) and (1–5 April) 2006, training was provided to 22 social workers (6 males & 16 females), 18 headmasters (9 males & 9 females), 3 deputy headmistresses, 19 trainers (6 males & 13 females) from the quality schools ToT standard group. Training focused on child rights and school violence, the alternatives pedagogic methodologies and gender issues.
- On 30 March 2006, the implementation of the school mapping in Raimah was launched.

Supporting the Girls' Education Program

The SFD program for girls' education targets areas with enrollment rates of girls lower than the national level. The program has been implemented in five sub-districts in Amran, Sa'adah, Taiz, Al-Dhale' and Al-Hudaidah governorates. The following activities have been carried out:

- Two workshops were organized for educational consultants on providing conducive educational environment, with 18 consultants (12 males & 6 females) participating in each. The first took place on 21–22 January 2006 and focused on reviewing the training topics and approaches. The second workshop occurred on 01–02 February 2006 and addressed post-training feedback.
- Eight training courses were held during the period 23–28 January 2006 for basic education teachers in the intervention schools in the five governorates. Training, attended by 142 male and 19 female, focused on how to create favorable educational environment.
- Training was provided on 31 January–04 February 2006 for 19 male and 11 female consultants and teachers working in education-supporting community participation. Training addressed gender issues and the childhood (children's rights

Third phase indicators - Education Sector*

Indicators	Target 2004-2008	1 st Year (2004)	2 nd Year (2005)	3 rd Year (2006)	Total
Classrooms built & equipped	7,500	1,913	2,501	282	4,696
Classrooms rehabilitated	1,100	296	352	33	681
Children enrolled	300,000	113,331	160,381	60,947	334,659
Preschool teachers trained	600		542		542
Kindergartens established	34	5	10	1	16
Workshops in education, planning, programming and evaluation	16	8	12	1	21

* includes only under implantation and completed projects as of 31/3/2006



Awareness on girls' education (Sa'adah)

to education). In addition, the period 21–26 February 2006 witnessed the training of 24 consultants (11 male and 13 female) on Participatory Learning and Action (PLA).

- The SFD continued supporting the Ministry of Education's Girls-Education and Community-Participation Sectors by organizing field visits on 11 March–03 April 2006 to the program areas. The aim was to acquaint the staff with the current education situation (particularly, girls'). In addition, obstacles and difficulties facing rural girls' education were identified, needs of the governorates' relevant directorates assessed, and enhancing cooperation and coordination between the SFD's Education Unit and concerned sector sought. Fifteen staff members at the central and governmental level, as well as the project officer, participated in the visits. The visits were concluded by signing partnership-agreement procès-verbal and submitting suggestions for tackle obstacles.

Preschool Program

A meeting was held between the SFD's Education Unit and the MoE's Preschool General Directorate. The purpose was to find out how to enhance cooperation and develop activities in this field (training, furnishing...).

School and training lab manuals

The manual aims to upgrade and develop professional and technical skills as well as to enhance the teachers' and lab technicians' capabilities in the optimum use of the school labs. The final version of the school lab manual has been submitted and applied, following the completion of proofreading and layout.

Education through technology

This recently established program aims to provide vocational development programs through training teachers and students to work over a local computer network connecting several schools. The project will be linked to the Internet. Within this context, a training course was held in Sana'a on 29 January–01 February 2006. Two expert trainers from Lebanon and Holland provided and supervised the course, which was the first ever of its kind. Training included setting goals and defining outcomes and indicators.

Cultural Heritage

During the quarter, three projects were approved in the sector at an estimated cost of about \$360,000. These are the Restoration of the Historical Houses in Shibam/Hadhramaut (Third Phase), the Restoration of the Al-Mansouriyah mosque/Al-Dhale' (First Phase) and the Sana'ian Songs Preservation Project.

Cumulative number of projects reached 138, with the estimated cost approaching \$19.5 million.

Activities carried out in the quarter included:

Mahen-Bin-Amran Mosque

Restoration of the mosque continued (Al-Za'ala/ Al-Saddah/ Ibb). A specialized Yemeni team has been assigned to clean and fix original ceiling paintings. Later, the team will strengthen the wood that has been rotted by humidity, which was penetrating through the roof cracks, leading to the proliferation of woodworms that destroyed the roof and the ceiling. The team, overseen by the French expert, will carry out the remedial actions based on scientifically recognized methods.

"Miqshama" rehabilitation

Rehabilitation of the "Khudair" and "Al-Nahrain" Miqshamat (green gardens nearby mosques) continued. The project includes removal of the garbage and waste piles and elimination of the cement distortions as well as traditionally constructing fences and retaining walls. Ultimately, the "Miqshamat", considered two of the biggest in the Old City of Sana'a, will be replanted to expand the green areas of the city and preserve the city's exquisite traditional sight.



Khudair Miqshamat

Third phase indicators – Cultural Heritage Sector*

Indicators	Target 2004-2008	1 st Year (2004)	2 nd Year (2005)	3 rd Year (2006)	Total
Cultural heritage projects financed	90	24	26	1	51
Cultural heritage consultants trained	95	52	60	0	112
Cultural heritage laborers trained	880	177	220	0	397

* includes only under implantation and completed projects as of 31/3/2006

Training and Organizational Support

During the quarter, the number of projects in the Training & Organizational Support sectors reached 34 projects at an estimated cost of \$969,308. Of these projects, 16 are approved, and 18 are under implementation. They targeted NGOs, local communities, private sector, Local Councils and government organizations.

Training Sector

This sector targets SFD partners and includes various training fields and activities. The agencies targeted during the quarter include:

1. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs): 12 projects

The training projects concerning NGOs targeted three associations individually benefiting from three separate training projects in the governorates of Ibb, Al-Mahra, Amran. In addition about 46 entities benefit from nine training projects. These NGOs include charitable, fishing and consumer associations as well as productive families' centers and friends of environment clubs in the governorates of Al-Maharah, Hadhramaut, Shabwah, Aden, Lahj, Al-Dhale', Taiz, Al-Mahweet and Al-Baidha. Fields of training are diversified. They comprise of coiffeur, accounting systems, handicrafts, monitoring & evaluation, management & planning, potteries, investment and marketing...

2. Local communities: 5 projects

Interventions aim to expand the formation and training of beneficiary committees, reinforcing empowerment endeavors and organization of group work between community members and the formed committees; hence, to reduce the cost of community-participation activities through qualifying university graduates from rural areas to implement voluntary work. The projects are distributed as follows: Four projects targeted the formation and training of 210 committees for the projects in water, education, feeder roads and health within the SFD branch offices of Dhamar, Amran and Ibb (70 each) and one project concerning the establishment of five associations in the rural and semi-rural areas having some essential criteria. The establishment process depends on the mechanism of participatory learning and action (PLA) and aims to identify the needs of the respective areas. The project comprises of certain components. These include the implementation of a primary study, community mobilization and assessment of 5 areas where SFD projects have been completed as well as training in management and accountancy. Moreover, components encompass plans' preparation for the five potential developmental associations in the governorates, which were selected in accordance with the primary study, formation of the five selected associations, and—after the completion of the procedures—providing their premises with the necessary equipment and facilities.

3. Private sector: 6 projects

Groups within this sub-sector include consultants, rural-areas university graduates, small contractors, beekeepers and other groups involved in running income-generating activities.

Small and Micro Enterprises Development

Studies in Business Development Services (BDS)

Early in January 2006, the SMED Unit—through its BDS sector and specialized consultants—started implementing various studies on the possibility of manufacturing school furniture by small workshops. Also, studies and surveys were conducted on the small entrepreneurs and suppliers working with SFD as well as on the training needs of tailors. These studies are expected to be finished in the second quarter of the year.

Exploring potentials for establishing MF network in Yemen

On 21–22 January 2006, a workshop was held with the participation of 16 SFD stakeholders involved in micro-finance (MF), representing the various MF programs and foundations. Different issues, pertaining to the field, were discussed.

The third of its type, the workshop aimed to evaluate the MF programs and institutions and the outcomes of their activities in 2005 and to review the 2006 action plan. In addition, objectives included improvement of the performance of these programs as well as identification of their training and funding needs in order to establish their goals in favor of the clients.

In addition, the obstacles that face the MF industry have been discussed in order to find solutions, in addition to the issue of establishing an MF network in Yemen, which is becoming an increasingly urgent need due to its importance in providing technical assistance and capacity building for MF programs and institutions. Moreover, the experience of "Azal" MF program has been reviewed, particularly its loan and accounting systems, data-security conceptions, accurate data input and errors reporting.

Improving and marketing Yemeni handicrafts

The second phase of Improving and Developing the Yemeni Handicraft Products Project started on 04 March 2006. Within this context, five European businessmen involved in handicrafts' importing and marketing conducted field visits to a number of governorates. Agreements were signed to export and market Yemen handicraft products abroad. They also provided the Yemeni artisans with counsels on design and marketing techniques. It is worth mentioning that this is the second time the SFD arranges such visits in order to create opportunities and markets for Yemeni handicrafts in Europe.

Training of trainers (ToT) in MF financial analysis

The SMED unit held on 12–16 March 2006 a training course in Sana'a on ToT. The course was held in coordination with the Microfinance Network for the Arab Countries (Sanabel). The course was implemented by two experienced trainers, Mr. Husein



A microfinance beneficiary

Balshie (from Palestine) and Mr. Majdy Mousa (Egypt).

The aim of the course is to qualify a number of local MF programs' workers in how to use the MicroFin program used for MF financial planning.

Sanabel Chairperson Visits SFD

An official visit to Yemen was conducted on 12–16 March 2006 by Mrs. Essma Bin Hamedia, the Cairo-based "Sanabel" Board of Directors' Chairwoman and the Executive Director of the Environment & Development Association (ENDA) MF organization in Tunisia. The visits included the MicroStart programs, viz. Al-Awa'el MF Company (Taiz), Al-Hudaidah Microcredit Program and Sana'a Microcredit Program. During the visits, Mrs. Essma presented the experience of ENDA, which developed in conditions similar to these programs' and became an important MF organization in the region. The "Sanabel" Chairwoman also made a presentation about MF services to the local commercial banks and MF programs. In addition, discussions were carried out on how to provide the MF programs in Yemen with better institutional support by Sanabel and ENDA. The visit also aimed at exploring the possibilities of holding the Sanabel forthcoming conference in Yemen, scheduled in April 2007.

Loan Officers' Course

During the period 26–29 March 2006, a refreshing course was held for 13 female loan officers involved in MF programs. The aim is to qualify the officers to be consultants so they could intervene, review and evaluate the credit operations, extending from promoting loans until closing the client's credit file.

SMED Operational Manual workshop

The SFD held a workshop on 1–3 April 2006 to formulate the SMED unit operational manual draft. The workshop, held in cooperation with Microserve consultant Mr. Mohammed Khaled, was attended by the SMED unit's project officers (POs). The manual's initial draft was formulated and will be finalized later by the Pos.

Agriculture and Rural Development

The recently established unit comprises of the Integrated Intervention Program, Agricultural Sector, Community Contracting and Rural Roads.

Integrated Intervention

During the quarter, activities were carried on in the program's (2nd phase) eight areas of intervention in Raimah, Dhamar, Taiz, Al-Hudaidah, Amran, Ibb, Hajjah and Lahj governorates. Activities include:

- Training of 23 (male and female) trainers in "Participatory Analysis". These—in turn—are expected to train local communities' development committees (LCDCs). Moreover, nine-day 3 separate training courses were organized to train 101 LCDCs. Trainees included 39 females and 55 males, in addition to 7 LCDCs' members in the targeted areas. Participants exchanged experiences, discussed plans that emerged from the local communities themselves during needs identification and set the final formulation of these plans;
- Training of 23 new consultants in Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) in preparation for the community-mobilization course;
- Two training courses on 22–29 January 2006 in Al-Amal Social Center (Al-Awlah village, Al-Luhayyah/ Al-Hudaidah) in Participatory Community Development. The courses were attended by 17 members of the administrative body and monitoring committees of the Al-Bu'giyah Association, in addition to 19 community committees' members. Trainees will form the communities in the new areas of the program and oversee the formation of the branch committees. Furthermore, a three-month course is being held (in the same center) to train 12 trainers in sewing.



Participatory community development course

- In cooperation with the Queen Zain Al-Sharaf Development Institute (Jordan), 30 project officers and consultants were trained in community mobilization. The purpose of the training was to benefit from regional experiences in carrying on with the program in its four-year second phase.

Agriculture Sector

A training project for 30 farmers/beekeepers (in Taiz) and a veterinary training attended by 30 farmers involved in animal raising (in Sana'a) have been completed.

Community Contracting (CC)

A training course on CC was held on 12–17 February 2006 in Hadhramaut. The course was attended by 23 members of the Community Committees, including five female participants and three project officers).

Rural Roads

The quarter's projects approved under the sector reached 37 at an estimated cost of \$5.9 million, while the cumulative number of projects is 222, with the cost estimated at \$26.6 million.

Three feeder-road projects were completed during the quarter. These are the "Al-Hanak" & "Da'aqueen" project (Wadhrah district) in Hajjah governorate and the "Al-Kalbain" (Wesab Al-Ali) and "Al-Qasab" (Wadi Ein/Wesab Al-Safel) in Dhamar.

Third phase indicators – Feeder Roads Sector*

Indicators	Target 2004-2008	1 st Year (2004)	2 nd Year (2005)	3 rd Year (2006)	Total
Feeder roads financed	125	18	33		51
Feeder road beneficiaries	800,000	88,293	219,342		307,635

* includes only under implantation and completed projects as of 31/3/2006

The SFD adopts interventions aiming to reinforce the capacities and skills of such groups. This is in addition to familiarizing them with the aspects related to SFD's policies, regulations, financial criteria, and contracting procedures.

Projects include:

- Two projects targeting training of trainers who are to be involved in the formation and training of committees in the PLA mechanism as well as raising the capacities of some SFD project officers in the same area. This training is within the framework of the series of programs related to PRA, RRA and PLA, which emanated from the new development trends. These trends concentrated on the principle of empowering local communities.
- Two projects within "the national program for qualifying university graduates from rural areas to conduct voluntary work". The objective is to qualify consultants to work with Dhamar and Sana'a SFD branch offices.
- One project: "Training of trainers in accountancy, and strategic planning": This project aims to expand the trainers' base in the aforementioned two training components through consultants' training (males/females) from the governorates of Hadramout, Shabwa, and Al-Mahra. After achieving training, the targeted consultant-trainers will perform the task of training the associations and organizations that receive SFD support.
- One project for training beekeepers in the districts of Al-Saddah and Al-Nadirah (Ibb governorate). This is the latest in the series of training courses targeting beekeepers in various governorates, which have shown that there is a considerable need to provide beginner-beekeepers with practical field training by means of simple methods and the use of locally available tools for achieving the basic beekeeping processes. The beekeepers in the two districts are distinguished by permanent abode within their respective areas due to the availability of semi-permanent natural pastures, in addition to the presence of women as beekeepers. The project includes on-site training for 325 beekeepers. Another training course for 20 beekeepers was conducted to prepare them to work as intermediaries between the trainees and the market.

Organizational Support Sector

The sector's objective is to build the capacities of SFD partners participating in the realization of community development and the provision of productive and literacy services, in addition to providing some necessary equipment, databases and management systems.

1. NGOs: 8 projects

- Five projects targeting five individual associations in three governorates. In Hadhramaut, interventions comprise of on-site training in planning, monitoring & evaluation for Socotra History & Heritage Association (Hediebou), training in feasibility study for income-generating projects, accountancy and planning for Al-Alieb Association (Ghail-Bin-Yamin) and training in management & planning for the Youth Association for Development & Ingenuity. In Shabwah and Al-Maharah, projects include training courses in simplified accounting system and planning for Al-Irtiq'a Women Charitable & Social Association (Baihan) and for Rahn Association (Hauf) as well as provision of necessary equipment for each.
- One project targeting two associations in Shibam, Wadi Hadhramaut (Woman Charitable & Social Association and Hadramout Charitable Association). The intervention includes training of female-trainers in traditional ma'awiz weaving, in addition to the provision of necessary weaving tools (mahaweek) to the two associations.
- One project aiming to review and examine the extent of benefit gained from the training that had been provided in a number of organizations supported by the SFD in a number of governorates in accountancy, planning and management.
- One project is the latest in a series of public libraries supported by the SFD in a number of governorates.

2. Government Organizations: One project

The project aims at raising the capacities of the Yemeni Center for Social Studies & Labor Research–2nd Phase through training in management & maintenance of computer networks and statistics as well as providing necessary equipment and designing a website for the center.

3. Local Councils: 2 projects

The two projects are related to the Decentralization & Local Development Support Program (2nd Phase), which aims to support the Ministry of Local Authority and receives contributions from the SFD, UNDP and other donors. The first, targeting Amran, Al-Hudaidah and Ta'iz governorates, aims at continuing capacity building of the local authority and executive organs in various development fields and includes budgeting and other activities related to supporting decentralization. The second project is for 2006 budget support for Al-Ma'afar & Haifan districts (Ta'iz governorate) to enable the Local Authority to implement development-investment activities in the two areas.

Third phase indicators – Training and Organizational Support Sectors*

Indicators	Target 2004-2008	1 st Year (2004)	2 nd Year (2005)	3 rd Year (2006)	Total
Workshops for NGOs	125	64	64	4	132
Support to NGOs and cooperatives	200	41	51	11	103
Support to user groups, communities and CBOs (in various forms)	700	64	238	232	534
Support to local councils and authority	50	0	16	15	31
Councilors and local authority members trained **	12,588	1,875	5,845	260	7,980

* includes only under implantation and completed projects as of 31/3/2006

** includes almost all local councils of Yemen (330 local councils)

Health and Social Protection

Health sector

Seven projects were approved in the quarter at an estimated cost of about \$1.1 million.

Improving access to primary health care services

Activities included furnishing & equipping Al-Sa'adi Health Center (Bani Al-Wahedi/ Al-Salfiah-Rema/ Al-Hudaidah), and Azal Medical Complex and Al-Zahrawi Health Center (Capital City) as well as the health center and unit in Hawrah Same' and Al-Madahef (Al-Tabha/ Taiz). In addition, the construction project of the health unit in Bait Selal (Al-Geraf Al-Asfal/ Khamer, Amran) and the two health centers in Bani Al-Awam and Kaidena (Hajjah) have been overseen, while the civil works in the health unit of Al-Rabadi (Jebelah/ Ibb) were completed and the project initially delivered.

Improving health institutes (HIs) education quality

Designs were set for the rehabilitation of the Higher Institute for Health Sciences in Sana'a and another project was developed to rehab the institute's library and construct four additional classrooms and the pharmacy lab. Moreover, a training course on operating and maintaining lab equipment was carried out for the lab instructors of the HIs equipped by the SFD.

Access of targeted communities to health-services providers

A training course targeting 20 community midwives (CMs) in Wesab Al-'Ali (Dhamar) was accomplished. In addition, supervision continues over five similar courses to qualify CMs in several regions in Sana'a. Other six courses have been conducted for 109 CMs in Amran, Hajjah and Sa'adah. In Taiz, five courses in the same field continue to be supervised and a CM training project and two projects to train traditional birth attendants have been developed in Shar'ab Al-Salam, Ma'abar (Ma'awiyah district) and Barashah (Maqbanah). On the other hand, the female students' hostel of the CM training project in Al-Saddah (Ibb) was equipped and study commenced on 08 February 2006.

Productive, prenatal and postnatal health care

The project for equipping the Al-Salakhana Hospital (Al-Hudaidah) was approved. In addition, a training course, focusing on the provision of appropriate prenatal care, was conducted for 44 community midwives from mother-and-child health centers

and hospitals in Hadhramaut coastal districts. Other training courses were also held in emergency of obstetric care and referral system for such cases as well as prophylaxis against contagious diseases in Zabid, Al-Dhahi and Bajel (Al-Hudaidah).

Special-Need Groups (SNGs)

In the quarter, seven projects were approved, with the estimating cost reaching \$228,000.

Integrating disadvantaged children in the mainstream education

A project was signed aiming to provide education to 30 children with hearing impairment and integrating them in the public mainstream education. The children will be qualified in the Al-Amal School of the Deaf Care and Rehabilitation Association (Amran). In addition, 20 instructors have been trained in this regard.

Disadvantaged-children preschool education

Three projects were signed. The first targets the Physically-Disabled Association in Rada' district (Al-Baidha) through rehabilitating and integrating 35 children, training 20 teachers and 20 staff members of the Association's Administrative Body (AB) in accounting and management, furnishing and equipping the Associations' preschool classrooms and providing the appropriate teaching means. The second project targets the SNGs Association in Dhamar through the rehabilitation of 28 mentally retarded children, provision of training to 20 of the Association's AB in the aforementioned domains and the supply of furniture and equipment. The third project aims to provide institutional training to the Al-Mustaqbal (Future) Association in Taiz involved in supporting the socially marginalized groups.

Caring for the orphans, street children and juveniles

Two projects were signed. One aims to provide transportation means for the Safe Childhood (Street Children) Center in Taiz, while the other targets the Al-Amal Female Delinquent Juveniles House (Capital City) and aims to rehabilitate 40 juvenile girls in some handicrafts and occupational skills, in addition to providing capacity building to the staff.

Third phase indicators – Health and Special Need Groups Sectors*

Indicators	Target 2004-2008	1 st Year (2004)	2 nd Year (2005)	3 rd Year (2006)	Total
Health Sector					
Subprojects to support health facilities providing quality services	250	16	37	1	54
Number of trained health service providers *	1,500	493	125		618
HMIs supported to enhance quality of health education	20	2	7	1	10
Staff trained from HMI	400	120			120
Health education curriculum upgraded for the HMI	5				
Libraries equipped and supplied with books for HMI	8		2		2
Teaching laboratories equipped with learning materials	8	1			1
Psychiatric hospitals and care centers staff trained	125	20			20
Districts which received support in applying the DHS	4		3		3
Special Need Groups					
Public schools supported with inclusive education	300	58	5		63
Disadvantaged children in SFD-supported schools	15,000	3,633	1,216		4,849
Directorates of inclusive education established	8				
NGOs supported by technical training to serve special needs groups	50	25	33	1	59
Communities made aware of both the importance and accessibility of	380	4	35		39
Faculty of Special Education	2				
Staff members qualified in the field of disability	40	20	49		69
Pre-School rehabilitation and education centers for preschooler with disability	25	5	1		6
Street Children centers	5	2	1	1	4
Juvenile delinquent centers	5	2	0	0	2

* includes only under implantation and completed projects as of 31/3/2006

Water and Environment

Water sector

During the quarter, 14 projects (at an estimated cost of around \$1.3 million) were approved. These included the following:

- In line with the Unit's annual plan, a series of field visits were conducted during the periods 11–20 February and 25–30 March 2006 to follow-up the implementation of 17 water-harvesting projects in Ibb, Aden, Dhamar, Taiz, Sana'a and Al-Hudaidah governorates;
- A workshop was held on 25 March 2006 to discuss means of improving water-harvesting-related awareness campaigns as well as lower-cost alternatives. Such activities proved effective in raising the awareness of the communities benefiting from water harvesting;
- On 04–08 February 2006, a training course was held for 26 project officers and consultants from the SFD's different branch offices. Focus was given to small-dam and irrigation-system designs and training on various design programs and software.

Environment sector

Seven projects were approved, the estimated cost of which approaches \$208,262.

- Ibb and Taiz branch offices were visited on 13–16 March 2006 to discuss the SFD interventions in wastewater management projects;
- Several field visits were conducted in Feb. and March 2006 to follow up with operation and maintenance of the Al-Saddah sanitation project;
- During January and February 2006, six treatment units were established to produce biogas in Utmah natural sanctuary (protectorate). Six homes were chosen according to specific selection criteria that include the availability of a sufficient number of livestock, the willingness of homeowners to contribute to excavation works and providing sand, water and unskilled laborers. Produced by these units from animal (cows) manure, the biogas can be used for cooking and lighting. This intervention aims to disseminate the use of the biogas units to replace gradually firewood. Three local engineers and five instructors have been trained to take over the implementation of the biogas units in their areas.
- Within the context of the Unit's annual plan, 3 solid-waste management projects in 3 areas of Al-Hudaidah governorate were visited on 11–13 March 2006, in addition to the two slaughterhouse projects in Zabid and Bagel. The purpose of the visits was to evaluate the completed works and follow-up with the projects' operation and maintenance.

Third phase indicators – Water and Environment Sectors*

Indicators	Target 2004-2008	1 st Year (2004)	2 nd Year (2005)	3 rd Year (2006)	Total
Water-harvesting subprojects	750	57	45	3	105
Water stored in reservoirs (M3)	3,000,000	897,250	1,113,250		2,010,500
Piped systems	100	24	13		37
Reservoirs	40	14	13	0	27
Hygiene and environment awareness	225	56	15		71
Wastewater management	15	8	4		12
Solid waste management	7	9	3	1	13
Soil & water conservation	3	4	2		6

* includes only under implantation and completed projects as of 31/3/2006



Improving school environment–Omar Bin Al-Khattab School (Seyoun/ Hadhramaut)

- A field visit was conducted on 15–16 February 2006 to Yareem to pave the way to a solid-waste management project.
- A training course was held early in the quarter for 27 project officers and consultants from the SFD's different branch offices. The SFD's Environmental Management Plan (EMP) and the relevant requirements were focused upon. In addition, two workshops were held on 3–4 January 2006, targeting 50 contractors, and pertaining to the EMP's requirements during project implementation. Within the same context, four training courses were approved on the environmental impact evaluation and EMP, targeting POs and consultants of the Dhamar, Aden, Sana'a and Amran branch offices.
- A project was approved to raise the awareness concerning the adverse effects of qat. The project, targeting students in the Capital City (150 schools) as well as the public, comprises of some components. These include printing 20,000 copies of the awareness book for school students as well as 10,000 relevant cassettes and 10 TV flash shots for the public. In addition, preparations were launched to carry out awareness activities during the first semester of the 2006/2007 school year. Awareness campaigns were concluded by organizing a feast in the Capital City, demonstrating the schools' relevant activities. On the other hand, two workshops were conducted on 24 and 30 January 2006 with the participation of 4 schools to discuss and enrich the book with their comments, opinions and ideas.
- 70% has been completed of the works pertaining to the project for improving school environment of the Omar Bin Al-Khattab two boys' and girls' schools and the surrounding area (Omar Mosque, adjacent to the schools). Costing around \$19,000, the project includes the establishment of two water tanks, 1-km-long irrigation network and implanting 500 various nurslings. In addition, a similar project at a cost approaching \$18,000 has been implemented for the implantation and irrigation of 650 different tree Fouwwah Girls' School (Al-Mukalla), with 40% completed.