

Qualified midwives for the first time ever in Broom

The reproductive health centre in the Al-Mukalla (Hadhramaut governorate) was inaugurated in 1997. The centre (of the Yemeni Family Care Association in the province) provides many services such as family planning, vaccines and care for pregnant women—in addition to organizing training courses to qualify midwives from remote areas and, then, to return and work in their areas. One of these areas was Broom located west to Al-Mukalla. "This is the first time we cooperate with the Social Fund for Development to train midwives from the target areas", said Sa'eed Awadh Bawazir, the center director. Teacher Zakia Bashedri, a training supervisor at the centre, explained some details of this process. She said, "We provide a one-month theoretical training and then begin practical application in several areas related to midwifery and pregnant-women and postnatal care as well as caring for the neonates themselves. Practice includes measuring blood pressure and weight and explaining how to fill in the pregnant-women cards and vaccination sheets in addition to family planning."

"SFD team invited 20 girls of different educational levels and from various adjacent regions (Al-Ghaida, Broum and Maifa'). We went through a placement test and then started receiving training," said the midwife trainee Amira Ahmad Basoloum. One of her colleagues, Safa Ali Bazar, continued, "Our region lacks qualified, trained midwives. Although a complete health unit was established there, a need remains for qualified midwives capable of serving the region in this regard. Unfortunately, we were always waiting for others to come and assist us and never thought to take over the initiative ourselves. That was our status until the SFD team visited the area and encouraged us to operate the health unit". She paused a while and continued, "That is how we got here and started learning and receiving training to eventually return with benefits to our village and its small population—women in particular". A third trainee, Marwa Salem Baqasem, approached us in enthusiasm, starting her speech with a question, "Do you know?" Then, staring at us directly in eyes as if to make sure that we follow her, she continued, "The distance between our village and the training centre is so long that we would not be encouraged to attend the course. However, the SFD facilitated our arrival here through providing buses free to come and turn back home in the daily two-hour trip. This made a lot of things much easier to us," She concluded.

Hanan Abdullah Baqurwan, another trainee, said, "Now the training supervisors rely much on us and we are eager to go back to the village and work in our health unit. Indeed, should the SFD did not offer us this opportunity, our educational and practical situation would have been bad, as we cannot complete university graduation due to our circumstances. In fact, we now sense our importance". She took a deep breath as if looking for the appropriate words to conclude her speech. Finally, she said, "Thanks to the Social Fund and the efforts it makes to us!"

Training courses in M&E

Two training courses in monitoring and evaluation (M&E) were held in Sana'a during January and February 2008. The first, Output Mapping "OM" (evaluation for development), was held on 20–23 January 2008 and attended by 40 male and 10 female trainees, including directors of SFD branch offices, heads of units, projects officers, consultants and representatives of government institutions.

The course focused on the OM basic principles—with emphasis on practice during planning—and introducing the OM, methods of using it and ways to integrate it with the different M&E methods. Participants also discussed the cases where the OM is used, new ideas in M&E design and facilitation skills in the participatory actions/operations as well as the measurement of social changes and incorporation of the institutional initiatives.

The second course, held on 01–06 February 2008, addressed development evaluation principles; it was attended by 25 male and 13 female trainees—mostly SFD project officers from the Head Office and branches as well as from government agencies and other organizations. The course focused on several topics, including the development evaluation concept and models and the new approaches on evaluation as well as evaluation-related questions and designs and methods of collecting relevant data.

In addition, topics included sampling methods used in monitoring and evaluation as well as the ten steps of building a performance-based M&E system. The course aimed to familiarize participants with the emergence and evolution of monitoring and evaluation—especially development evaluation—and with the M&E concepts and terminology in addition to comprehending steps to build an M&E system. Moreover, the training aimed to acquaint participants with the basic criteria of evaluation (effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, impact) as well as the different methodologies and approaches of the evaluation process and the potentially ensued problems.

On the other hand, the course was concluded by producing a report assessing the quality of the training course as well as technical advice on the possibility of continuing the work to establish the National Evaluation Society and provide it with the required technical assistance.

Training of the gender team

SFD's plan in capacity building in gender mainstreaming aims to enable the SFD staff to be involved actively in the field and to implement the Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and Framework (2008–10) developed by the SFD in 2007.

To this end, the SFD conducted a workshop on 18–20 September 2007 to address the development of gender-related indicators, work plan and sector check lists. The workshop came out with an executive plan to build capacities to implement the strategy—with activities carried out by the SFD Training and Organizational Support and M&E units as well as by the core team and SFD branch offices.

After another meeting held in late 2007, the gender core team was formed and it held its first meeting to discuss the capacity-building plan and identify the "training gap" of the team members. Subsequently, two training courses were held for the team members: the first was introductory held on 05–07 January 2008, addressing gender concepts and basics. The second course was held on 23 February–03 March 2008 to identify and analyze the training needs in the field. The course, attended by the team members and male and female consultants from SFD's eight branch offices, also addressed training methods and techniques.

Moreover, a draft training material was prepared on gender and gender mainstreaming in SFD interventions. The material includes a number of topics such as gender concepts and terminologies (with an introduction about an Islamic vision on gender issues) as well as the principles and steps of gender analysis and planning.

Finally, the team held its second meeting early in January 2008 and discussed the team training needs and the relevant documents.

Social Fund for Development

Board of Directors approves SFD 2008 annual plan

The Board of Directors (BoD) of the Social Fund for Development (SFD) held its first meeting for the current year on 17 February 2008 under the chairmanship of HE Ali Muhammad Mujawar, the Prime Minister and Chairman of the BoD. During the meeting, the Board approved the SFD annual plan for the year 2008 at an estimated cost of \$171 million financed by the state's budget and external funding sources as well as the local beneficiaries' contributions. The plan aims to implement 1,362 projects in all the governorates, particularly in remote areas, and in the different development sectors. Of these, 487 projects are planned for education (at an estimated cost of \$74 million), 231 for agriculture and rural development (\$32.7m), 223 for water and environment (\$37m), 214 for health and social protection (\$15m). In addition, 155 projects are planned to be implemented for training and organizational support (nearly \$3.4m), 23 for cultural heritage (\$6.5m approximately) and a number of projects in small and micro enterprises development and business development services—with the estimated cost approaching \$2.4 million. The BoD perused the SFD report of 2007 achievements and praised the efforts made by the SFD executive management in the planning and implementation of the targeted projects as well as the successes attained in consistence with SFD's goals that contribute to targeting local development and poverty reduction.

The Board of Directors called upon the SFD management to focus more—in the forthcoming period—on supporting quality programs on the technical education and vocational training as well as on fish wealth.

Editorial

The SFD has continuously been improving its interventions and programs in alignment with the government economic and social development plans. Although the SFD enjoys financial and administrative autonomy, it remains linked and associated with the government sector policies and strategies—with its budget being within the overall State's.

Also, the SFD continues to play its roles to complement the government efforts and fill the gaps in term of increasing access to basic services and coordination with the line ministries and other government agencies to achieve the Yemen development goals—and in accordance with the Law No. 10 of 1997 concerning the establishment of the SFD.

Within this context, one can understand that the national civil service reform will help improve the public administration. However, it will take a long time to be achieved. Therefore, there is an insistent need to establish and support executive and administrative institutions and units to assist in implementing the national and local plans, programs and strategies and virtually contributing to accomplishing the development goals. In addition, the executive entities (even in the developed countries) often constitute an essential prerequisite to ensure effectiveness and efficiency of the public sector.

In Yemen, the poor are in extreme need for social and economic services in order to mitigate their sufferings—as it becomes increasingly difficult for such poor to wait long to access the services.

In this regard, the local communities, for which the SFD carried out development interventions, have realized the significance and positive impact of SFD projects in their areas as an effective contribution to the government efforts to develop the remotest and poorest areas and improve the available services—hence, lessening the hardship of the destitute.



SFD's general meeting held in Aden

The SFD held its periodical general meeting in Aden on 19–20 March 2008. The meeting was headed by the Managing Director (MD) Abdulkarim I. Al-Arhabi and attended by the unit heads, branch-office managers and all staff members. The MD opened the meeting, briefing on the history of the SFD's meetings.

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The National MF Strategy steering committee endorses the strategy work plan

In collaboration with the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation and the German Bank for Development (KfW), the SFD—represented by the Small and Micro Enterprises Development Unit—arranged for the first meeting of the Steering Committee (SC) of the National Microfinance Strategy held at the SFD premises on 30 March 2008.

The meeting, which approved the work plan for the strategy implementation, aimed to emphasize the importance of cooperation and coordination between the different players involved in microfinance (MF), including the SFD, partners (donors, government agencies and NGOs) and the MF banks and institutions.

The significance of the meeting lies in the fact that it provided an opportunity to exchange opinions on the roles to be played by the SC and the other relevant parties to proceed with the implementation of the strategy.

SFD's general meeting held in Aden (continued)

In the meeting, different issues related to the SFD, its performance and work mechanisms were discussed. Meanwhile, other topics have been displayed and thoroughly discussed such as the Mid-Term Vision, community participation, monitoring and evaluation, small, micro enterprises development, business development services, and the like. The meeting, also aiming to promote the acquaintance among all SFD's staff members, discussed various issues and topics. Concluding the event, the MD expressed appreciation to the harmony and amicable atmosphere that prevailed among all SFD employees and assured them that all their suggestions would be taken into consideration.

UNIT NEWS

Education

The education sector activities during the quarter focused on developing the basic education infrastructure, girl education and quality education as well as the talent-student care programs.

The number of projects in the quarter reached 230 at an estimated cost of \$43 million.

Basic education development

Projects approved in the sub-sector during the quarter are 203, at an estimated cost of \$38 million. These projects are developed and implemented through the SFD branch offices according to the targeted communities' needs as assessed in collaboration and coordination with the Ministry of Education's offices in the governorates and districts.

Preschool education

One project was approved to establish a kindergarten. In addition, a bid was awarded to provide electronic and electrical equipment to six kindergartens as well as to the MoE office in Zabid district (Al-Hudaidah). The kindergartens are distributed among the Capital City, Al-Mashannah (Ibb), Al-Hoata (Lahej), Al-Baidha (Al-Baidha) and Al-Mina' and Al-Hali (Al-Hudaidah).

Girls' Education

The program comprises four components: capacity building, community groups, construction and community awareness and mobilization.

Capacity building

Training courses were carried out in January 2008 for female community facilitators (FCFs). The courses were attended by 12 FCFs and 40 students from the Al-Mustaqbal and Toyour Al-Amal rural girl development centers in the two sub-districts of Al-Maja'eshah and Akhdou' A'ala (Maqbanah district, Taiz governorate) as well as 3 FCFs and 56 students from Al-Amal and Al-Rahmah centers in Al-Ramiyah Al-Ouliya (Al-Suknah, Al-Hudaidah). Training, aiming to enhance the capacities of the FCFs in planning, follow-up and self-overseeing, included also participatory assessment

with the facilitators and students' involvement as well as preparation of school plans, assignment preparation and class management.

Similarly, four training courses were held during February 2008 focusing on community-participation approaches and the roles and tasks of the fathers and mothers' councils of similar centers in Taiz and Al-Hudaidah—with 20 and 36 members of these councils participating, respectively.

In addition, a workshop was conducted on 04 March 2008 and attended by 12 SFD's male and female consultants) on the formation and training of community committees. The workshop aimed at reviewing the indicators and data of the sub-districts targeted by the program, discussing the PRA tools and selecting a number of appropriate tools as well as coming up with a collective executive plan inclusive of the work methodology and timeframe. In addition, the workshop sought to divide each sub-district to community groups—in accordance with the specified criteria—to facilitate the work of the field teams, discuss PRA tools and select a number of appropriate ones as well as to come out with an implementation collective plan including work approaches and timeframe.

On the other hand, the SFD participated in the visit to India (29 March–05 April 2008), in which experience was exchanged in girl education and literacy as well as gender issues.

Community participation

The formation and training of a number of community development committees (CDCs) in targeted areas in Taiz, Al-Hudaidah and Amran governorates were completed. Each sub-district was divided into 3–4 community groups, with each of these community groups forming 3 CDCs for education, women development and development projects. These committees identify needs and priorities and implement plans at the community-group level after submitting them to the sub-district committee that is formed from within the CDCs and assigned with decision-making and overseeing.

Construction

Seven rural girl development centers were preliminarily received in Taiz, Al-Hudaidah and Sa'adah—with furniture of five of these centers completed in the first two governorates.

Third phase indicators - Education Sector*

Indicators	Target (2004-2008)	Actual					Total
		1 st Year (2004)	2 nd Year (2005)	3 rd Year (2006)	4 th Year (2007)	5 th Year (2008)	
Classrooms built & equipped	7,500	1,928	2,550	1,869	1,229	631	8,207
Classrooms rehabilitated	1,100	290	352	268	145	116	1,171
Completed classrooms(by approval year)	8,600	0	636	2,629	2,337	460	6,062
Children enrolled	300,000	153,877	239,450	225,810	110,106	54,695	783,938
Preschool teachers trained	600		542				542
Kindergartens established	34	4	10	9	2		25
Workshops in education, planning, programming and evaluation	16	8	12	16	58	2	96

* Includes only under-implementation and completed projects as of 31/3/2008

Cumulative number of beneficiaries and job opportunities as of 31/3/2008, by sector

Sector	Beneficiaries		Temporary job opportunities
	Direct	Indirect	
Environment	2,032,765	328,103	781,689
Integrated Intervention	118,147	64,971	328,565
Training	42,445	277,245	124,185
Education	1,998,985	1,768,607	13,128,313
Organizational Support	507,087	529,316	508,215
Agriculture	25,085	100,500	14,851
Health	4,196,575	749,804	1,435,958
Rural Roads	3,417,800	1,698,818	4,051,411
Special Needs Groups	169,375	90,052	642,941
Micro Enterprises Dev.	106,291	459,661	28,132
Small Enterprise	35,855	76,915	17,619
Cultural Heritage	297,315	129,062	1,522,547
Water	2,236,216	183,261	2,859,920
Business development	22,310	53,880	1,031
Total			25,445,377

SFD cumulative commitments and contracted amounts as of 31/3/2008, by governorate

Governorates	No. of projects	Commitments (\$)	Contracted amounts (\$)
Ibb	659	66,277,694	50,951,813
Abyan	148	14,280,313	12,229,633
Sana'a	502	58,652,611	46,582,992
Al-Baidha	177	16,961,734	14,932,840
Al-Jawf	101	8,429,209	7,016,755
Al-Hudaidah	633	64,679,530	53,914,870
Al-Dhale'	118	12,930,076	8,886,980
Al-Mahweet	201	19,746,595	16,787,935
Al-Maharah	66	3,562,903	3,273,928
Several Governorate	639	30,389,179	23,696,492
Taiz	858	85,164,477	65,076,825
Hajjah	453	42,787,659	34,017,768
Hadhramaut	422	29,970,560	27,063,381
Dhamar	506	41,118,859	36,044,435
Raima	155	14,504,409	11,579,137
Shabwah	191	14,043,767	13,558,826
Sa'adah	190	21,446,366	14,353,061
Sana'a	275	19,901,539	18,043,203
Aden	190	20,739,076	17,007,161
Amran	450	37,845,124	30,180,618
Lahej	277	21,005,051	16,787,929
Mareb	85	7,860,396	6,412,883
Total	7,296	652,297,127	528,399,467

SFD cumulative commitments and contracted amounts as of 31/3/2008, by sector

Sector	No. of projects	Commitments (\$)	Contracted amounts (\$)
Environment	173	19,269,218	15,018,269
Integrated Intervention	108	8,571,925	5,842,888
Training	486	8,625,887	6,465,129
Education	3,290	343,755,124	279,062,017
Organizational Support	394	17,356,748	12,741,993
Agriculture	24	1,102,478	378,610
Health	691	49,862,555	37,418,535
Rural Roads	407	63,950,438	56,811,141
Special Needs Groups	384	22,803,951	19,539,493
Micro Enterprises Dev.	114	10,376,612	8,146,329
Small Enterprise	26	4,427,031	3,652,769
Cultural Heritage	175	31,929,086	23,254,489
Water	1,005	68,466,853	58,383,007
Business development	19	1,799,222	1,684,799
Total	7,296	652,297,127	528,399,467

Cumulative number of beneficiaries as of 31/3/2008, by gender

	Beneficiaries	
	Direct	Indirect
Male	7,334,357	3,251,022
Female	7,871,894	3,259,173
Total	15,206,251	6,510,195

Completed projects as of 31/12/2007, by sector

Sector	No. of projects	Investment (\$)
Environment	124	12,698,217
Integrated Intervention	40	1,903,572
Training	423	7,073,473
Education	2,636	232,516,934
Organizational Support	338	11,397,200
Agriculture	10	127,161
Health	411	29,042,405
Rural Roads	211	26,844,838
Special Needs Groups	289	16,907,618
Micro Enterprises Dev.	87	7,626,521
Small Enterprise	23	3,345,281
Cultural Heritage	96	12,354,719
Water	739	45,080,348
Business development	9	502,202
Total	5,436	407,420,488

Small and Micro Enterprises Development

The SFD continues providing support to microfinance institutions (MFIs) and programs as well as to Small and Micro Enterprises Promotion Services (SMEPS) to help them provide financial and non-financial services to small and micro entrepreneurs. In this regard, the SFD carried out the following activities during the quarter:

Funding SMEPS

The SFD agreed to finance the SMEPS with a two-year operational grant of \$473,640 to enable the agency to continue providing its services. In addition, the SFD agreed to finance the new branch of SMEPS in Aden City with an amount of \$167,810 in order to help expand the services provided by SMEPS in Aden, Taiz, Lahej and Abyan governorates. The branch, expected to be officially launched during the next quarter, is SMEPS' second one, with the first opened in Hadhramaut in August 2007. Moreover, the SFD funded a number of SMEPS projects supporting several small enterprise individuals and agencies, with the amount reaching \$177,000.

Funding MFIs

The SFD provided the National Microfinance Foundation (NMF) with 29.5 million Yemeni Riyals "YR" (equivalent to nearly \$147,870). Services provided by the NMF covers several governorates through nine branches—all providing financial services to income-generating activities entrepreneurs, particularly women, who constitute 98% of the total number of beneficiaries.

On the other hand, the Savings and Credit Wadi Hadhramaut Program was funded with YR20 million (about \$100,251) in accordance with the credit agreement signed between the SFD and the Al-Nahda Social Charity Association—the sponsoring agency of the program.

Supporting MFIs

The SFD supports MFIs through providing training, promotion and technical assistance.

Training

The SFD's Small and Micro Enterprises Development (SMED) Unit carried out a training course in improving basic skills of loan officers. The four-day course, titled "How to promote the MFIs", was held at the premises of Sana'a MF Program (Azal), targeting primarily the program's female loan officers as well as the peer officers of the Nama' Program, NMF and the Sana'a-based Small loan Project. The course, attended by 20 participants, aimed to boost the loan officers' efficiency in promotion, acquaint the attendants with the different levels of promotion as well as with loan-officer knowledge and skills and introduce them to the concept of communication and its components. Focus was given particularly to the practical application and exchange of experience amongst the participants.

Introducing nonfinancial services to university students

In continuation to the promotion of the nonfinancial services provided by the SFD, a number of lectures were delivered in January 2008 at the Community College and a private university in the Capital City as well as the Engineering and Administration Colleges of Aden University. The lectures focused on introducing the SFD, its interventions at large, the financial and nonfinancial services provided by the SFD and its partners in the SMED sector. A number of representatives from the MFIs and SMEPS were invited to participate in these events and respond to the questions of the students, explaining how the latter could benefit from such services and facilitations. Additionally, the lectures—attended by some 350 students (of both sexes)—explained also the importance of SME sector in creating job opportunities, thus reducing unemployment, and relying exclusively on the limited employment offered by the government and private sector.

Technical assistance

On the sidelines of SFD general periodical meeting held in Aden on 18–21 March 2008, the SFD's managing Director (MD), Abdulkarim I. Al-Arhabi, paid a visit to the Aden Microfinance Foundation. The MD met with a number of the foundation's staff and he was briefed on its performance, indicators and the current year's work plan. Al-Arhabi praised the efforts made to enhance the role of the foundation, confirming on SFD's continued support by the SFD to enable it to provide continuous services to the small and micro entrepreneurs in Aden and Lahej governorates.

Supporting the Al-Amal Bank

The SFD provided technical support to the Al-Amal Bank in cooperation with the bank establishing team. Infrastructure launching procedures were completed such as leasing premises for the bank and its first branch in the Capital City and furnishing them as well as selecting and training the bank's staff. In addition, the statutes and systems regulating the bank activities were set in accordance with the significant role to be played by the bank in serving the entrepreneurs—as the first ever microfinance bank in the country.

On the other hand, the SFD will conduct a market study to assess the beneficiaries' needs. The study is expected to benefit—in addition to the bank itself—the microfinance institutions and programs. The bank will launch its operations by the end of next July through three different branches in the Capital City and then expand its services to other governorates.

Signing an agreement with an MF Moroccan association

The SFD signed an agreement with the Al-Amana Association of Morocco, the largest MF institution in the Arab countries. According to the agreement, a female consultant from the association provided six-month training to the staff of the Aden MF Foundation as well as helped to update and improve the foundation's manual and boost on-time loan repayment. In addition, she provided field training to about 30 staff members of Yemen's MFIs—with training expected to enhance the efficiency of the trainees and, consequently, impact positively on the performance of these institutions.

Other activities

The SFD provided technical support to the Savings and Credit Self-Help Program through restructuring and developing the program's financial and accounting system, which now includes all the developments and changes that took place in the savings and on-lending policies of the program.

The SFD also provided technical support to the Aden MF Foundation and the Al-Hudaidah income-generating activities development program in finance and accounting as well as to Abyan, Al-Hudaidah, Aden and Sana'a (Azal) MF programs in Ma'een loan system, in addition to updating loan repayment mechanism in the SMED automated loan-tracking systems.

On the other hand—continuing to qualify its staff—the SMED Unit sent an employee to Cairo to participate in the workshop held on 19–31 January 2008 on financial education and organized by the Citi Foundation. Another staff member also took part in the Training-of-Trainers course on financial analysis of MF programs carried out by the MF Network in the Arab Countries (Sanabel) in Cairo in late January 2008.

Moreover, the SFD participated in the meeting of the NMF Board of Directors held in January 2008, the annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the Al-Awa'el MF Company and (along with representatives of the Al-Islah Social Charity Association, as Nama' sponsoring agency) the first annual meeting of the Nama' MF program. The meetings discussed the corresponding 2007 annual reports and approved the 2008 work plan.

Quality Education

In February 2008, a workshop was conducted on Douroub program. The workshop, attended by headmasters and deputies of the schools participating in the program, aimed to set an information and communication technology (ICT) document of work principles for the relevant schools. The document includes ICT effective-use directives targeting school headmasters, coordinators, teachers, parents and students. It also includes directives for headmasters on monitoring and evaluating school performance.

In addition, another two-day workshop was carried out in March 2008 for Douroub's coordinators. The workshop discussed the role and responsibilities of ICT coordinators, challenges facing them and suggested remedies.

Caring for the gifted and talented students

A preparation program has been implemented in the three targeted governorates (the Capital City, Taiz and Aden) to receive the first batch of the relevant teachers and students by the mid school year 2008/09. In addition, the selected schools were provided with robotics labs as well as furniture and equipment needed for these labs.

The program's action plans for the next period were also developed—in addition to drafting training programs for the selected teachers and launching preparations to receive the second batch of relevant students and teachers.

Cultural heritage

Ten projects were approved during the quarter at an estimated cost of \$3 million.

The Great Mosque/ Sana'a

Technical restoration of the Great Mosque in the historical Old City of Sana'a continued, including delicate conservation works of the ornamented wooden coffered ceiling at the eastern and northeastern parts of the mosque. Works are carried out by 20 co-conservators assisted and guided by six professional experts from the Italian Vinito Institute. In addition, several constructional and archeological excavations at the southern, northern and western parts are implemented by 10 archeological experts. Excavations revealed significant remnants of ancient buildings, which might help reformulate the mosque's history.

On the other hand, the relevant national team is currently embarking on conducting lab study of the components of the original coatings of the mosque's walls and columns. The team had previously carried out coat sampling for comparison and cross matching with the original ingredients of the coating. This process resulted in the removal of the newly placed coatings and replacing them with others of the same constituents, techniques and characteristics of the original layer.

Moreover, Yemeni technicians are documenting all the processes as well as the building wooden and stone decoration components.

Preparation for a study of a new electrical network supported by light and siren-alarm as well as fire alarm system was also completed. Bids will be announced in April 2008. Moreover, preparations are under way to carry out three studies on repaving the mosque, recoating its ceiling with Qadad and restoring the western minaret.

Zabid preservation and Al-Asha'erah Mosque restoration

Within the partnership program with the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) to contribute to the preservation of Zabid City and other historical cities—which was launched in late 2007—field visits were made to 14 historical cities to conduct an introductory survey for selecting 3–4 cities for the program's first phase.

On the other hand, a funding agreement was signed to finance the second phase of the restoration of the Al-Asha'erah Mosque in Zabid (Al-Hudaidah)—one of the most significant Islamic archeological and architectural assets in the country, founded by the Prophet's Companion Abu Mousa Al-Asha'ari in the eighth Hegira century in the historical city of Zabid. This phase comprises a number of activities, including coordinating the mosque building and its facilities, building sanitation facilities, restoring the wooden ceilings and completely restoring the walls, the minaret and the roof.

The Al-Ashrafiyyah Mosque and Madrasah/ Taiz

Works continue to restore the Al-Ashrafiyyah Mosque and Madrasah (*religious school*) in the Old City of Taiz (governorate of Taiz). Within this context, elimination of the constructional risks threatening the building complex completed. In addition, most of the project's architectural elements (such as the two minarets and the domes) have been restored, civil works around the building completed and preparation of some components launched—such as doors, windows and *qumrias* (traditional, colored windows).

Archeological assets in Al-Saddah/ Ibb

The project of fencing four archeological assets in Al-Saddah (Ibb) was launched. These assets include Al-Asibiyah, Al-Quton, Al-Shahed and Shamar Yahra'ash. The fence course has been set—with the area of the fence specified to be 6,600 m² approximately.

Database for Yemeni Museums

The establishment of database for Yemeni museums was launched. Installation of computers and database programs is carried out currently in certain relevant agencies. These include the main office of the General Authority of Museums and Antiquities and the National Museum in Sana'a as well as Aden- and Seyoun-based museums. The project will allow the entry of data related to antiquities and archeological pieces and documenting them. This will make the information exchange among them and with the authority easier.

On the other hand, four official invitations were sent to consultant architectural firms qualified to enter the competition for designing the Mareb Regional Museum project.

Third phase indicators – Cultural Heritage Sector*

Indicators	Target (2004-2008)	Actual					Total
		1 st Year (2004)	2 nd Year (2005)	3 rd Year (2006)	4 th Year (2007)	5 th Year (2008)	
Projects financed	90	23	30	23	14	4	94
Consultants trained	95	52	60	41	78		231
Laborers trained	880	177	220	136	120		653

* Includes only under-implementation and completed projects as of 31/3/2008

Refurbishing of Al-Maidan Hammam & Marna' (Old City of Sana'a)

The project of refurbishment of the Al-Maidan *hammam* (similar to Turkish bath) and *marna'* (a small building close to the water well from which water is fetch) in the Old City of Sana'a was primarily received. The compound is now in a good condition in terms of services, cleanliness, warming, client capacity and economical consumption of water.

National staff training

A number of national staff were trained on restoring parts of the two mosques of Shibam/ Kawkaban and Al-Ashrafiyyah/ Taiz. In the former, the field theoretical and practical training, provided to more than 45 male and female trainees, was conducted from mid-December 2007 to end-March 2008. In addition, 26 trainees (of both sexes also) were trained in the restoration of the decorated, colored woods as well as inscriptions in the prayer hall of the Al-Ashrafiyyah Mosque and *Madrasah*. Following training, eight of the best trainees were selected to work in the introductory phase of the restoration of the mosque and *madrasah* as part of the comprehensive project to restore the two historical monuments.

Documentation of the archeological pieces

Within the project aiming to document the archeological pieces in the Al-Ashwal village, 30 inscriptions and 95 archeological pieces, transferred from Dhafar to the village, were documented applying the relevant standard methodologies.

Preservation of the Sana'ani song

Activities of archiving the Sana'ani song and developing the relevant database are continuing. In this regard, another database is being prepared for poetry and rhyme related to the Sana'ani songs in order to allow linking each song to its poem text. The results of the works in these fields will be presented to the public in the second quarter of 2008.

Moreover, the Yemeni Music Institute received some invaluable and rare gramophone discs and recordings of certain professionals of the Sana'ani song. Being currently recorded digitally, these recordings will then be archived within the database.

On the other hand, training is being provided to young cadres on how to make and to play the Sana'ani traditional "oud" (lute) instrument—or *qunbuz*.

Training and Organizational Support

During the 1st quarter, the number of projects in both the Training & Organizational Support sectors reached 52, with an estimated cost of \$1.8 Million. Of these projects, 17 are approved, and 35 are under implementation. They target governmental organizations, NGOs, local communities, Local Authority, private sector, university graduates as well as SFD staff.

Training Sector

This sector aims at building the human and institutional capacities of SFD and its partners. These include consultants, project officers, local committees (beneficiary committees), as well as contractors, projects' technical supervisors, local authorities, NGOs, and governmental agencies.

Non-Governmental & Governmental Organizations

Training support in these two sub-sectors targeted the following organizations:

- Al-Araja Association – Al-Zuhra , and Al-Munira Social Association / Al-Hudaidah governorate, and the Poor Families and Orphans' Social Charitable Association in Ibb governorate. Support components (in accordance with specific needs for each organization) include financial and administrative training, strategic planning, marketing, fund raising, sewing, embroidery, maintenance of sewing machines, and coiffeur.
- The Social Welfare Fund branch in Sa'adah governorate: Support consists of a training program in administrative skills, drafting of regulations & work plans, secretarial & documentation skills and computer applications.

Local Communities

The interventions included the following:

- Two projects: The first deals with "Training of Trainers" on animal husbandry, targeting 96 members (m/f) of the population settlements' development committees. The second project addresses "On-Site Training for 48 development committees" on organizational issues related to the empowerment and committees' work, including identification and analysis of differences and conflicts, and methods of solving them, in addition to information-sharing visits among the district committees.
- Twelve projects aiming at formation and training of community committees for projects from 2008 Plan, and participatory prioritization and assessment of community needs for 2009 projects, according to the needs of each individual branch. A total number of about 558 committees are targeted for training and formation, and covering various sectors in the branches of Amran, Sana'a, Ibb, Taiz and Al-Mukalla. This is in addition to training the rural women in Socotra on household packing of dates.

Local Authority

Empowerment for Local Development – 1st phase – Almarashi/ Al-Jawf governorate: The project aims to organize 2 workshops, the first targeting all members of the local authority and officials in each district, and the second workshop for the team responsible for the empowerment task, implementation of the field assessment in all the districts sub-districts (4 sub-districts forming 7 population settlements). This is in addition to training the development committees of the sub-districts on drafting regulations and streamlining the self-initiative plans.

- Training Local Authority Tenders' Committees in Taiz governorate: The training consists of a training course for the tender committees of the governorate, and seven training courses on tendering procedures and methods related to the development projects, and targeting the local councils' executive committees, as well as the tender committees in 14 districts.

Third phase indicators – Training and Organizational Support Sectors*

Indicators	Target (2004-2008)	Actual					Total
		1 st Year (2004)	2 nd Year (2005)	3 rd Year (2006)	4 th Year (2007)	5 th Year (2008)	
Workshops for NGOs	125	36	75	68			179
Support to NGOs and cooperatives	200	41	28	29	30	8	136
Support to user groups, communities and CBOs (in various forms)	700	64	232	260	346	289	1,191
Organizational support to local councils and authority	50	0	10	15	11	10	46
Councilors and local authority members trained **	-	1,875	5,845	260	250		8,230

* Includes only under-implementation and completed projects as of 31/3/2008

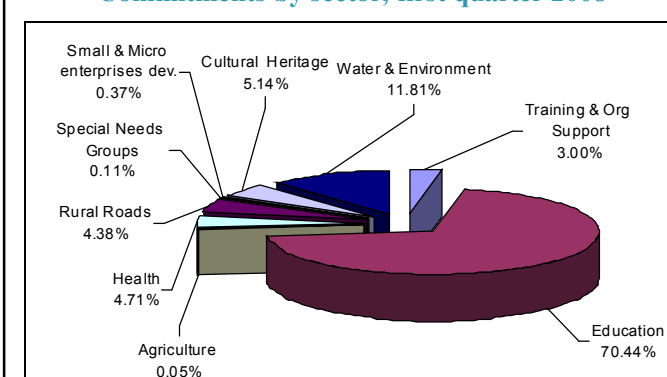
** Includes almost all local councils (330) in the country

Microfinance Programs Supported by SFD (on 31-3-2008)

	Program	Active number of clients			Outstanding loan portfolio (Thousand YR)	PAR (%)	Cumulative numbers		Area of Operation
		Borrowers		Savers			Number of loans	Loan amounts (Million YR)	
		Total	Women (%)	Total					
1	National MF Foundation	9,096	99	11,363	193	7.3	40,447	1,233	Capital City, Taiz, Qa'edah and Yarim in Ibb and Dhamar
2	Aden MF Foundation	1,927	86	4,906	37	44.7	18,916	664	Dar Sa'ad, Al-Bureikah, Al-Mu'alla, Al-Tawwahi, Crater, Khormaksar, Sheikh Othman – Aden, Lahj
3	MF Development Program (Nama')	3,741	38	987	109	0	19,057	735	Sana'a, Taiz, Aden
4	Sana'a MF	2,766	88	2,427	66	1.2	14,900	505	Capital City
5	Abyan S & C	2,350	100	2,584	52	0	8,394	287	Abyan
6	Hais S & C	408	89	1,256	5	99	9,853	252	Hais, Khoukha, Jabal Ras, Zabid Al-Hudaidah governorate
7	Al-Hudaidah MC	3,899	79	0	43	39	29,380	677	Al-Hudaidah city and Bajil - Al-Hudaidah governorate
8	Wadi Hadhramaut	1,398	84	1,477	52	3.8	4,762	270	Seyoun – Hadhramaut governorate
9	Al-Awa'el MF Company	3,292	100	0	58	3.7	25,790	514	Taiz
10	Sana'a Microstart (SOFD)	520	70	0	7	15.1	9,030	180	Capital City
11	Other Activities & IGPs	0	0	0	0	0	8,909	311	Several areas
12	Small Enterprise Development Fund	2,154	9	0	939	4	7,062	4,541	Capital City, Taiz, Aden, Al-Mukalla,
	Total	31,551		25,000	1,561		196,500	10,169	

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

Commitments by sector, first quarter 2008



Expected number of beneficiaries and job opportunities, first quarter 2008, by sector

Sector	Beneficiaries		Temporary job opportunities
	Direct	Indirect	
Environment	30	0	325
Training	5,547	27,450	12,211
Education	97,086	592,150	1,400,808
Organizational Support	275	192	7257
Agriculture	44	0	660
Health	240,716	36,530	77,910
Rural Roads	115,278	0	92,501
Special Needs Groups	35	36	409
The micro enterprises projects	0	0	55
Cultural Heritage	2,000	16,000	150,833
Water	59,409	4,929	177,501
Business Development Services	0	0	50
Total	520,420	677,287	1,920,520

Commitments by governorate, fourth quarter 2007

Governorate	No. of projects	Commitments (\$)	Distribution (%)
Ibb	61	9,650,528	16
Abyan	2	485,800	1
Sana'a Capital	18	3,625,800	6
Al-Baidha	14	1,933,357	3
Al-Jawf	3	657,944	1
Al-Hudaidah	42	6,583,819	11
Al-Dhale'	6	1,521,300	2
Al-Mahweet	10	1,354,673	2
Al-Maharah	4	54,585	0
Several Govs.	27	1,284,252	2
Taiz	50	10,610,450	17
Hajjah	31	4,488,021	7
Hadhramaut	14	674,202	1
Dhamar	32	5,108,619	8
Raimah	15	1,729,401	3
Shabwah	4	844,500	1
Sa'adah	17	4,083,270	7
Sana'a	8	833,890	1
Aden	1	167,810	0
Amran	39	5,274,380	9
Total	398	60,966,601	100

Agriculture and rural development

The unit comprises the two sectors of agriculture and rural roads as well as the integrated interventions program and community contracting.

Agriculture sector

One project was approved during the quarter at an estimated cost of \$30,000. In addition, the quarter witnessed continuation and/or completion of the implementation of a number of projects and activities. These include two completed projects in Socotra Island, Hadhramaut and Wadi Tuban, Lahej.

The first project aimed to improve the traditional knowledge and primitive skills practiced by rural households in Socotra Island in processing house-made cheese. Eleven households residing in Ma'anafwah benefitted from the training.

The second project included the completion of three activities in Wadi Tuban. The first was the conduction of an economic and social study on pesticides and chemical fertilizers, while the second was a one-day workshop attended by 50 farmers and other concerned individuals from Lahej governorate. The participants discussed the outcomes of the said study. The third activity aimed to provide practical training to male and female farmers in the Wadi on ways of optimum and safe use of the pesticides and fertilizers and convince the farmers of adopting these ways by illustrating guiding (exemplar) vegetable field and comparing them with those of the farmers in the area.

In addition, the project to provide training courses and awareness campaigns continued, with three courses completed. The first included agricultural processes and their consistency with the modern productivity recommendations, while the second addressed the negative impacts of erroneous practices in agricultural irrigation and of misusing pesticides and chemical fertilizers. The third course focused on insects and diseases that attack agricultural animals, their diagnosis and means of prevention and treatment. Participants of the three courses included sixty males and females of relevant specializations from the five governorates covered by the rain-fed agriculture project (viz. Sana'a, Lahej, Al-Hudaidah, Al-Mahweet and Hajjah).

On the other hand, preparation and discussion as well as approval of the sector's 2008 action-plan were completed.

Integrated Interventions

Implementation of projects from preceding period continued within the Integrated Interventions Program (IIP), with focus given during the quarter to training and field visits.

Two training courses in beekeeping were carried out in the sub-districts of the Al-Mashareej (Tour Al-Baha district, Lahej governorate) and Asawedah (Mawiyah, Ibb). The courses, held for 9 days each and attended by 25 male participants, aimed to enhance the skills of the beekeepers in the field as well as in improving honey production. Another 8-day training course attended by 20 participants was also conducted in the former sub-district in animal care and health. The course helped the trainees acquire skills in providing food and housing for animals and identifying diseases affecting them and means of treatment.

In addition, a basic literacy training-course was held on 16–22 February 2008, attended by 14 female health workers who graduated from the health institute.

The trainees, from the areas covered by the IIP, are intended to open literacy classes in their areas—in addition to their original job as health workers.

Moreover, two male education superintendents from the Illiteracy Eradication Office of the Al-Gabeen district (Raima governorate) as well as three female consultants were trained on follow-up and supervision of literacy classes. The training aimed to help the participants acquire knowledge, skills and modern methods in illiteracy eradication and adult education.

Likewise, three field training-courses were held on 05–19 March 2008 for female literacy teachers in three areas targeted by the IIP—viz. Al-Luhaiyyah (Al-Hudaidah), Al-Gabeen (Raima) and Wesab Al-Safel/ (Dhamar). The courses aimed to enhance the role played by the literacy teachers, redress flaws (if any) in their qualification and performance and support the principles of the basic training course.

On the other hand, a field visit was paid to the Bani Mabarez sub-district (Al-Qafr district/ Ibb governorate) and Al-Bu'jiyyah (Al-Luhaiyyah/ Al-Hudaidah) to follow up and evaluate the projects implemented in the two areas as well as to oversee work mechanism and form and/or streamline water users' administrations.

Similarly, a field visit was conducted to the Al-Outnah sub-district (Haradh/ Al-Hudaidah) to coordinate the implementation of some activities in agricultural and economic domains as well as to follow up with the activities of animal care and health and obtain full acquaintance with the area and its agricultural conditions. The Al-Mashraaj sub-district (Tour Al-Baha/ Lahej) was also visited to follow-up with the performance of the development committee in the area and discuss imperfections in its work as well as to seek solutions for the problems facing the committee. In addition, the visit aimed to follow up with the works conducted to construct the Al-Mu'tasem School expected to serve three areas in the sub-district as well as to hold meetings with the local authority in the district and discuss the conditions of the Al-Mashareej and the integrated-intervention projects implemented there.

Moreover, within the efforts made to enhance the involvement of the local authority in the integrated-intervention areas, a field visit was carried out to Khadhem (Raima) by a team comprising representatives of the local authority and the program. The visit aimed to follow up with the projects implemented in the area and the extent of coordination and integration of mutual roles of the three parties: the local community, the local authority and the SFD. Finally, the program's 2008 work-plan was submitted and discussed by local development committees and the local communities at large in the areas targeted by the SFD's integrated interventions.

Rural Roads

During the quarter, ten projects were approved at an estimated cost of \$2.7 million. The projects focused on street pavement using intensive-employment mechanism adopted by the SFD to create job opportunities for the highest possible number of the unemployed.

Training also received particular attention, with community committees trained on community contracting approach in implementing projects and consultants on overseeing projects implemented by this method—in addition to the development of an economic study on the rural road projects.

Private Sector - Individuals

Interventions involved various fields, including raising the capacities of consultants to qualify them as trainers in SFD branches, in the field of project quality control and conducting quality control visits, training apiarists' trainers from various governorates, as well as training apiarists from the governorates of Hajjah, Al-Hudaidah, and Raima on bee-keeping development.

Interventions in this sub-sector also include enhancing supervision skills of the consultants and technicians concerning the year 2008 projects in Hajjah governorate, training of trainers on strategic planning as well as a training program for new university graduates on field screening implemented by the Al-Mukalla branch. This is in addition to a training program for accountants linked to the Taiz branch community contracting projects for the year 2008.

University Graduates

Interventions in this sub-sector include qualifying and raising the capacities of volunteer university graduates from rural areas covered by SFD branches in Sana'a, Ibb, Al-Hudaidah, Dhamar and Amran. The training consists of formation and training of community committees, participatory needs assessment, SFD work mechanism, as well as training volunteers in SFD branches on art and skills of coordinating training-related activities.

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. Projects in this sector aim at reinforcing the sustainability of these partners by providing training for them in some or all the fields mentioned in the "Training Sector" above (according to the specific needs of each organization). This is in addition to providing some necessary equipment, databases and management systems, as well as providing books, necessary equipment and training concerning support related to the establishment of public libraries in various governorates.

The first quarter projects targeted the following sub-sectors:

Governmental Organizations

- *Supporting the Ministry of Planning & International Cooperation:* Support involves developing an evaluation and monitoring system through hiring an international expert for the purpose of designing and trial of an evaluation and monitoring system.
- *Supporting the Social Welfare Fund (SWF) branches:* The support is targeting 22 SWF branches. Components include providing computers and their accessories, photocopiers, and digital cameras, as well as related consultancy services. The support aims at consolidating the work of SWF branches, and facilitating the field survey process that will follow in the near future within the framework of a separate project.
- *Supporting the Women National Committee/ Hadhramaut Branch:* The support came in the form of a training course in fund raising as well as equipment to the training hall.
- *Supporting the Ministry of Legal Affairs (2nd phase):* The intervention includes specialized constancy work to develop the database and supervise the data entry and electronic filing of the Official Gazette issued by the ministry as well as originals of state decrees and resolutions issued during the period from 1962–2008. This is in addition to providing necessary equipment for the database development.

Non-Governmental Organizations

- *Supporting the Al-Saleh Social Foundation for Development:* Support involves hiring a regional consultancy office for implementing the following components:
 - Institutional assessment for the strategic management, human and financial resources management, information system, external relations and operations in addition to drafting a strategic plan for 5 years, an action plan for restructuring and an action plan for building institutional capacities. Moreover, the training room of the Yemen Women Union, Al-Hudaidah, with various training equipment.

- *Supporting organizations in various governorates:* Beneficiary organizations targeted include Fatiat Al-Wahda Social Charitable Association and Yemen Women Union branch in Al-Qatn district and Al-Amal Association for Women Development in Seyoun (Hadhramaut governorate) as well as Al-Sabeel Social and Charitable Foundation in Sayhout and the Agricultural Cooperation Union branch (Al-Maharah governorate). The support (set according to the needs of each individual organization) involves the provision of necessary equipment for various activities, as well as training in various fields such as bookkeeping, strategic planning, sewing, handicrafts, Agricultural Cooperatives' Law and training on computer applications.

Local Authority

- *Supporting the activities of the Decentralization & Local Development Program for the year 2008:* This intervention is a continuation of former activities implemented by the SFD and concerning 10 districts in the governorates of Amran, Hajjah, Taiz, which receive SFD contribution support under the SFD/DLDS program. Intervention components include remunerations for work teams responsible for activities' implementation, expenses for training, assessment studies, office materials & stationery, logistical expenses, consultancy and ancillary services.
- *Organizational support to the Local Authority in the Al-Haima Al-Dakhliya District/ Sana'a governorate:* The support consists of institutional assessment study for the district's main office, dealing with gaps in accordance with study findings (institutional building and technical support). In addition, support was provided in applying PRA methodology in needs' prioritization and submitting plans, workshops for the supporting the local authority in the plans' integration process at the sub-districts' level and producing the district's plans for the years 2009-2010, formation and training of the district team, as well as consultancy services and training expenses.

Health and Social Protection

The two sectors of health and social protection are included within this unit.

Health

Projects approved during the quarter reached 35, with the estimated cost approaching \$2.9 million distributed over several programs a follows:

Improving access to basic healthcare services

This program includes increase in the coverage of primary health-care services and in the number of the providers of these services as well as improving the services provided by health workers and staff.

A – Increase coverage of primary health-care services

During the quarter, a number of projects were developed to increase the coverage of primary health care services. These include 19 projects in infrastructure; of these, 11 projects aim to construct and equip health units and centers (in the governorates of the Al-Hudaidah, Raima, Taiz, Hadhramaut, Shabwah and Dhamar). In addition, eight projects were developed to provide furniture and medical equipment to 13 health units and centers (in the Capital City, Ibb, Amran, Sa'adah and Al-Baidha) and 2 other projects to fence 13 health facilities (in Sana'a and Al-Mehweet).

Third phase indicators – Feeder Roads Sector*

Indicators	Target (2004-2008)	Actual					Total
		1 st Year (2004)	2 nd Year (2005)	3 rd Year (2006)	4 th Year (2007)	5 th Year (2008)	
Projects financed**	125	17	33	46	55		151
Beneficiaries	800,000	86,724	219,342	285,386	238,137		829,589

*Includes only under-implementation and completed projects as of 31/3/2008

On the other hand, two health units were completed in A'alal (Tareem) and Hudaibou (Socotra) in Hadhramaut.

B – Increase the number of primary health care services providers

Within the framework of enhancing mother and child health services, six projects were developed to train and qualify health staff in the field. The projects, focusing on community midwifery, targeted 120 girls from the districts of the Al-Tehaita and Bait Al-Faqe'h (Al-Hudaidah governorate), Seyoun (Hadhramaut), Al-Naderah (Ibb), Al-Salafiyah (Raima) and Al-Misrahk (Taiz).

In addition, training programs were launched to upgrade 20 female health workers to community midwives in Hajjah governorate and qualify 40 others in Amran and Al-Mahweet as well as train 40 community midwives in the districts of Baqoum and Ghamer (Sa'adah) and Dhi Na'em and Al-Malagem (Al-Baidha).

C – Improve services provide by health staff

Within the efforts made to enhance the mother and child health services, three projects were developed to train 60 traditional birth attendants from the districts of Shariyat Al-Ghunaim and Radman (Al-Baidha) and Al-Maseelah (Al-Maharah).

C – Improving education quality at health institutes

Three projects were developed in the quarter to support health institutes (HIs) and increase their capacity as well as improve the infrastructure along with the educational environment. The projects include expanding, furnishing and equipping the pharmacy labs, computers and library (Sa'adah HI). In addition, four study halls and anesthesia & operation labs were built and equipped (Al-Mukalla/Hadhramaut HI) as were the computer lab and skill labs of the community midwives and nursing (Al-Ghaida/ Al-Maharah HI). On the other hand, office furniture was received for the project of rehabilitating the pharmacy lab of the Amran HI.

Expanding and improving reproductive health & postnatal care services

The quarter witnessed the launch of a field visit to assess and identify the needs of basic and comprehensive emergency obstetrics facilities in five governorates (Taiz, Lahej, Al-Dhale', Ibb and Amran). The study is prepared within the Mother and Neonatal Health (MNH) Program in the said provinces—in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the SFD, MoPHP and the Dutch embassy aiming to improve the MNH in these regions. The field visit was preceded by coordination meetings between the SFD and the partners as well as by a training course held for the SFD health project officers and consultants in addition to the health-offices' reproductive-

health directors in the targeted areas. Training focused on the mechanism of assessing and identifying the needs of the health facilities.

Improving access to proper psychological health care services

This program aims to contribute to the efforts made nationwide to reduce psychiatric diseases. In this regard, a training course was carried out (in cooperation with the Medicine and Health Sciences College of Sana'a University) for the psychiatric paramedics of different hospitals and health centers in Al-Hudaidah and Dhamar. In addition, the Sana'a University's Psychological and Educational Center was provided with training equipment and appropriate references, aiming to boost the role played by the center.

Groups with special needs

Focus was given during the quarter to inclusive education program, supporting national policies and strategies and expanding and improving the services provided to social-care centers working with special-need groups (SNGs).

Inclusive education and integrating targeted children in the mainstream education

Within the new approaches of the sector, the SFD carried out on 09–28 February 2008 two training courses targeting 70 participants conducting work and supervision in the associations acting in the field of disability in all the governorates. Training addressed topics such as concepts, planning and implementation of integrating SNGs in the mainstream public education as well as programs for extending services to rural areas, community-based rehabilitation (CBR) and early intervention. Objectives of training included expansion and improvement of service provided to the disabled through CBR programs, upgrading technical sources of special-education associations and enhancing coordination and cooperation among the relevant associations with respect to the provision of rehabilitation, educational and training services in local communities through the service-extension program. Additionally, training aimed to contribute to the provision of professional personnel and teaching means as well as other necessary materials needed to implement training programs for technical staff.

Supporting national policies and strategies

The SFD continues to support the Ministries of Social Affairs & Labor and Planning & Int'l Cooperation in developing the two national strategies of Social Protection and Disability as well as the Social Welfare Fund Strategy (SWFS). Within this frame, the SFD—

in cooperation with the World Bank (WB)—financed a workshop on 22 January 2008 aiming to discuss the WB's report on the social protection and social-safety network programs in Yemen. Discussions involved all the concerned individuals in the relevant government agencies and NGOs. The workshop was concluded with recommendations expected to help develop the strategy. It is worth mentioning that the SFD has supported the first phase of the strategy preparation, which comprised of carrying out preliminary studies.

The outcomes and recommendations of these studies contributed to producing the first-phase report that was consequently discussed in the mentioned workshop.

In addition, in order to ensure harmonious flow of course of the three mentioned strategies, the SFD contracted with the expert helping develop the National Strategy for Disability to assist also in preparing the SWFS.

Improving and expanding social-care centers working with SNGs

The SFD continues to enhance its work in special education and include more disability categories to be targeted by its SNGs sector. In this regard, the SFD established a program for low vision pilot program. The program is implemented in a dual direction: The first targets special-education centers active in providing support to the blind, aiming to launch the service through training the centers' staff on education of the blind. The second direction was based on encouraging the "From Child to Child" Association to expand the services provided by its *sight clinic* to the Al-Mawaset district of Taiz governorate in order to establish the said program. The program, implemented with assistance provided by an int'l expert in the field, encompasses three domains. These are survey and identification of the child needs and medical and educational prequalification. A comprehensive survey was conducted in the district's schools to assess the extent of impaired (blindness and low vision). Moreover, teachers (from these schools) were selected to be trained in working with people with low vision, in addition to sending 4 special-education centers' and NGOs' staff members to Jordan to obtain a high diploma in sight disability rehabilitation. This comes within the overall program, implemented in stages, aiming to prepare national trainers in the field. In addition, follow-up and evaluation visits were paid to the centers, from which the teachers were trained and other centers were assessed—as they will be targeted by the program in subsequent stage.

On the other hand, the SFD implements a project aiming to enhance the services provided to autistic children through supporting the Yemen Autism Center. This is done by providing the center's kindergarten with the appropriate means, equipment and tools as well as by providing technical support through training the kindergarten's female teachers in several fields pertaining to autistics and their education.

Water and Environment

The two sectors of this unit, water and environment, witnessed a number of activities in the first quarter of 2008. Projects approved in the quarter in both sectors reached 54, at an estimated cost of \$7.44 million.

Water Sector

The sector aims to increase access of poor local communities to water.

During the quarter, 51 projects were approved at an estimated cost of \$7.4 million.

A training course was carried out in Aden branch office on 24–28 February 2008, targeting 20 female and male participants involved in water harvesting projects. The training aimed to enhance the participants' expertise in the private "*al-siqayat*" (household-rooftop rainwater-harvesting cisterns) and their implementation by community contracting approach.

In addition, a training course was held on 08–13 March 2008 in SFD's Sana'a branch office for building the capacities of new consultants to work in community-contracting water harvesting. The course, attended by 28 female and male graduates of accountancy and civil engineering, aimed to enable the participants to acquire skills and experiences in the private "*al-siqayat*", public tanks, piped water supply and the method of using *Ferro-cement*.

The engineers participating in the two courses will be involved in developing the 2008 water plan for both branch offices.

On the other hand, some of the unit's staff members are currently participating in ongoing workshops related to updating the Water Sector Strategy (particularly in the groups of irrigation, rural water and integrated management of water resources).

Environment Sector

The objectives of the sector focus on increasing sanitation coverage in the poor local communities and improving the hygienic and environmental conditions of these communities.

During the quarter, three projects were approved at an estimated cost of \$0.04 million.

The quarter witnessed a number of activities, including a workshop held on 13–15 January 2008 aiming to discuss the potential of support provided by the private sector and associations involved in solid wastes and wastewater recycling. During the course, attended by 25 relevant representatives of government agencies, private sector and individuals, a number of working papers were presented and discussed. The workshop aimed to clarify the different roles the relevant agencies might play in implementing projects benefitting from the recycling of wastewater and solid wastes—consequently, contributing to creating new job opportunities in the field.

In addition, the implementation of the Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) project was launched on 09–14 February 2008 in six villages in Al-Mukalla (Hadhramaut). About 26 consultants (half of them female) were trained on the CLTS tools and skills and the trainees helped apply this methodology aiming to improve sanitation in the targeted villages. Moreover, a three-month plan was set to follow up with these villages and encourage them to adopt the CLTS to declare them later on as open-defecating-free areas. It is worth mentioning that the CLTS aims at combating "open" defecation by raising feelings of shame, fear and disgust within communities—leading the community members to build simple "lavatories" using locally available materials and skills without providing them with any subsidy/ support.

Third phase indicators – Health and Special Need Groups Sectors

Indicators	Target 2004-2008	Actual					Total
		1 st Year (2004)	2 nd Year (2005)	3 rd Year (2006)	4 th Year (2007)	5 th Year (2008)	
Health Sector							
Projects to support health facilities providing quality services	150	16	34	21	153	19	243
Number of trained health service providers *	1,500	460	559	355	306		1,680
Health institutes (HIs) supported to enhance quality of health education	20	2	7	3	12	3	27
Staff trained from HIs	400	120					120
Health education curriculum upgraded for the HIs	5				25		25
Libraries equipped and supplied with books for HIs	8		2		10		12
Teaching laboratories equipped with learning materials	8	1					1
Psychiatric hospitals and care centers staff trained	25	20					20
Districts which received support in applying the DHS	4		3				3
Special Need Groups							
Public schools supported with inclusive education	110	57	7	4	26	0	94
Disadvantaged children in SFD-supported schools	15,000	3,633	1,304	5,744	1,344		12,025
NGOs supported by technical training to serve special needs groups	30	25	33	61	17	2	138
Communities made aware of inclusive-education importance & accessibility	150	4	35	33	9		81
Faculty of Special Education	2				2		2
Staff members qualified in the field of disability	100	20	46	8	62		136
Pre-school rehabilitation and education centers for preschoolers with disability	25	5	1	1			7
Street children centers	5	2	1	1	0	0	4
Juvenile delinquent centers	5	2	0	3	0	0	5

*Includes only under-implementation and completed projects as of 31/3/2008

Third phase indicators – Water and Environment Sectors*

Indicators	Target (2004-2008)	Actual					Total
		1 st Year (2004)	2 nd Year (2005)	3 rd Year (2006)	4 th Year (2007)	5 th Year (2008)	
Water-harvesting projects	250	54	48	53	60	22	237
Water stored in reservoirs (m ³)	3,000,000	897,250	1,113,250	1,044,257	355,230		3,409,987
Piped systems	100	22	13	21	9		65
Reservoirs	40	14	13	10	5	0	42
Hygiene and environment awareness	150	54	15	21	6		96
Wastewater management	15	8	4	3	8		23
Solid waste management	7	9	3	2	3		17
Soil & water conservation	3	4	2	3	6		15

*Includes only under-implementation and completed projects as of 31/3/2008