Disaster Risk Management in Yemeni Cities

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Yemeni Cities

**Back Ground**
- Historic-Heritage values
- Tourism/Economic Potentials
- Centers of political, intellectual, business activities.
- Managed by elected councils
- Development programs centrally supported
- Urban population 32% of 25 million
- Urban growth rate 5% > 3% (avg. growth rate).

Old city of Sana’a

Shibam- Hadramout

Aden
Challenges

- Exposure to natural hazards and climate events.
  - Annual flash floods in cities
  - Devastating floods (3-5 years).
  - 50000 citizens affected/ US$ 200 million losses annually.
- Water Scarcity
- Expansion of informal settlements (30% of main cities land).
- Shortage in infrastructures & services
- Lack of systematic and integrated DRM approach.
- Weak capacities and finances
  - GDP US$ 1150
  - Poverty: 43%
  - Unemployment: 35%
1- Establishing Institutional & Legal Basis for DRM
   - Elected local councils are responsible for DRM – as per decentralization policy

2- Addressing DRR and CCA in Development Strategies and Plans
   (Poverty Reduction & Country Assistance Strategies: Take prevention/mitigation measures to deal with risk & impacts of natural hazards & climate change)

3- Support DRM Practice at Local/City Level (GFDRR country program)
   - Risk assessment studies, (completed 2010), basis for urban development planning
   - Capacity building (DRM, CCA) for city officials & NGOs to assess and manage risk
   - Enhancing monitoring and response capacity (CD emergency operation rooms, weather forecasting, EWS)
   - Improving construction practice and land use planning principals (codes of practice, standards, regulations)

4- Implementing Risk Reducing Infrastructures and Services
   - Storm drainage & Flood protection project
   - Resettlement of vulnerable dwellers
   - Upgrading of informal settlement

5- Affordable Housing program
Taiz Municipal Development & Flood Protection Project
1992-2010 (IDA US$ 81 million, GoY 17 million) – a replicable module countrywide

- Reduced flood related risks
- Upgraded social life
- Improved environment & access through the city
- Enhanced livelihoods, Jobs creation & economy
- Strengthen institutional capacities
- Build Local authority & NGOs cooperation.

Before

After

Resettlement village
Sayla Project – Sana’a
(GoY US$ 113 million, Donors US$ 31 million)
Upgrading of Informal Settlement
(Stormwater drainage, sanitation, water supply, paved roads, pedestrian access & waste collection)
WB & others
Public Housing Program for Low-Income Families
(GoY, US$ 140 million) – suitable and safe housing – reduce expansion of inf. settlements
Achievements and Way Forward

Some progress has been made but more needs to be done

GFDRR country-program

Continue strengthening Yemen DRM System (comprehensive and integrated risk management framework)

- Establishing sustainable financing mechanism for DRM
- Enhancing knowledge, capacities and tools to improve management practices, including preparedness and response to disasters.
- Promoting culture of prevention & resilience at all levels
- Assisting Yemen to implement storm drainage and flood protection in some cities (IBB,..)
2011 Uprising – Impacts

Negative Impact
- Increased insecurity & instability
- Exhausted government capacity and resources
- Hindered ongoing DRM efforts
- Increased Yemen vulnerability to risk

Positive Impact
- National Dialogue Outcomes (decentralization, good governance, greater involvement of women & youth….)
- Regional & international support to transition and development
- Developed & resilient cities (mid-long term)
Thank You