



Water, Environment and Sanitation (WES)

Yemen

Country Setting

- About 42 per cent of Yemen's population live in poverty, 80 per cent in the rural areas.
- Yemen's geographical disparities make it difficult to provide public services everywhere.
- Public spending on health is only 4.5 per cent.
- The fertility rate of 6.5 per cent is high.
- Women suffer from particular disadvantages in public life caused by cultural attitudes. Female illiteracy rates are as high as 80 per cent.
- 52 per cent of children suffer from long-term malnourishment (stunting).

WES Sector Setting

- Yemen is the poorest country in terms of available water resources. Its mostly groundwater amounts to only 140 cubic metres per person per year. Water resources availability is further jeopardized by depletion. In the western part of Yemen where 90 per cent of the population live, with current rates of extraction, the area will dry up within 50 years.
- The WES sector is managed by several entities with little or no direct cooperation or coordination. There is a lack of vision that results in the absence of clear sector strategies.
- The rural water sector requires an estimated \$750 million to increase coverage from current rates to 80 per cent by the year 2025.

Basic Indicators

Total population (1000s)	20,010
Under-five mortality rate (per 1000)	113
Total adult literacy rate (%)	46

Water and Sanitation Coverage

	Water (%)	Sanitation (%)
Urban	74	76
Rural	68	14
Total	69	30

UNICEF WES Programme

Main Components

- Construct community water schemes in rural areas using an area-based approach (with other interventions in health, nutrition and education) to generate synergy.
- Develop systems with support to capacity building to ensure effective community participation in planning, operating and maintaining water schemes. This should ensure self-managed and self-sustained water schemes.
- Mobilize communities to cover cost of water and latrine construction.
- Raise community awareness on environmental sanitation, conservation of resources and personal hygiene issues.

Programme Highlights and Achievements

- UNICEF supported water services ranging from motorized schemes to rainwater harvesters in 93 locations and maintenance of 20 water schemes serving 250,000 people.
- Courses in water management and operation and maintenance were provided to 225 water committee members and computer software courses to 90 WES authorities.
- UNICEF supported completion of a sanitation package, including a KAP survey, households and schools latrine designs, printing of hygiene materials and training of builders.
- UNICEF supported WES sector management with design of a survey and a database.