Introduction

The United Nations issued the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2000 as a global development initiative. Although this is considered a strong signal of commitment, these goals have not been achieved as expected by 2015. In response to the growing global challenges, the United Nations declared the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) late 2015, which is a set of 17 goals focusing on the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. As per 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, all countries are pledged to leave no one behind.

As the countries worldwide are implementing the SDGs, Yemen loses a part of the modest development achievements due to the ongoing war. State employees’ salaries haven’t been paid for months and the Social Welfare Fund cash transfers provided to about 1.5 million beneficiary cases have been suspended for more than two years. Six out of every ten people are at risk of food insecurity (IPC, March 2017). Some epidemics, such as cholera, have spread and the country is witnessing a severe humanitarian crisis.

Early estimates of the World Bank indicate that Yemen requires $88 billion to meet emergency needs and reconstruction (in sectors falling under the SDGs) up to 2022 (WB, 2017). This is a warning to all parties to the conflict to return to peace and start construction to avoid further losses.

This issue highlights selected indicators as samples to determine where Yemen is now, as well as reviewing the size of needs and requirements. Despite the difficult situation in Yemen, hope remains the fuel for creating a better future of peace and wellbeing for children and adults, and to make progress (even partially) towards achieving ambitious sustainable development goals.

In this Issue:

1. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 2015:
   - Progress in achieving the MDGs.
   - Main challenges faced the MDGs.
   - Lessons learned during the MDGs process.

2. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030:
   - What are the SDGs?
   - Samples of SDGs indicators in Yemen

3. The Way Forward:
   - Inclusion of the SDGs in the National Plan.
   - Requirements to achieve the SDGs and donors’ role.
   - Requirements and challenges facing the monitoring of SDGs.

Highlights:

- Yemen has made a partial progress towards the achievement of most of the MDGs, while indicators of some goals have deteriorated particularly poverty which increased from 40.1% in 1998 to 49% in 2014.
- Key lessons learned from Yemen’s experience in the MDGs is that scarcity of financial resources among other multiple challenges hinder the achievement of all goals at one time. This requires directing all efforts to selected priorities to achieve success, develop a real partnership with local and international development partners on the ground, build state institutions and establish sustainable solutions to prevent the reoccurrence of consecutive cycles of conflict.
- About 60% of Yemeni people are food insecure. About 2 million children, representing 27% of children at school age, are currently out-of-school. Early examinations were held before the end of the school year due to the salary crisis (OCHA, HNO, 2017).
- 14.5 million people (53% of the population) in Yemen need humanitarian assistance to have access to clean water and sanitation system due to material damage and lack of operating expenses. For example, 43% of water resources in Sana’a, Aden and Taiz governorates sustained direct damage. Moreover, 90% of Yemen’s population do not use electricity from the public grid, and inhabitants of coastal areas are affected the most during summer (WB, June 2016).
- The SDGs are ambitious, particularly in countries that witness conflicts such as Yemen, and their funding needs exceed the potentials of Yemen. However, they should be monitored and included in the coming national plan and establish an effective partnership with the donors and private sector to achieve them, even partially.

Facts and Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YER 361.6 / USD</th>
<th>11.9% **</th>
<th>The Inflation rate (end of period) in 2016</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18.8 million - people in need of humanitarian assistance in 2017.</td>
<td>3 million - people displaced (IDPs &amp; returnees) as of March 2017.</td>
<td>1.5 million - beneficiary cases awaiting the SWF’s cash transfers since early 2015.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 in 10 - people are food insecure in March 2017.</td>
<td>24.3 million *** - 90% of the population lack access to public electricity.</td>
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Sources:
- * UN Agencies.
- ** CSO, 2017
- *** WB, June 2016.
First: Millennium Development Goals in Yemen:

1. Progress in Achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs):

Although Yemen has made significant efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 2015 coinciding with the implementation of the 2nd five-year development plan (2001-2005), the 3rd five-year development plan (2006-2010) and the Transitional Program for Stability and Development (2012-2014), it has remained out of track.

Table (1): Level of Achieving the MDGs 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Value in base Year*</th>
<th>Base Year*</th>
<th>Targeted Value 2015*</th>
<th>Achieved Value</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Progress towards goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Goal: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Proportion of population below the national poverty line</td>
<td>40.1</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>20.1</td>
<td>49**</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Failure to achieve the goal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of underweight children under five years of age</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>1992</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>44***</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Goal: Achieve universal primary education</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net enrollment ratio in basic education</td>
<td>52.7</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>72****</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Partial progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literacy rate of 15 -24 years old (%)</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>79****</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Goal: Promote gender equality and empower women</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ratio of girls to boys in basic education</td>
<td>44.6</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>86****</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Partial progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share of women in wage employment in the non-agriculture sector</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fourth Goal: Reduce child mortality</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Under five mortality rate (per 1000 live births)</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>40.6</td>
<td>53***</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Great progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant mortality rate (per 1000 live births)</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>27.2</td>
<td>43***</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fifth Goal: Improve Maternal health</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ratio of Maternal mortality (per 100000 live births)</td>
<td>351</td>
<td>1997</td>
<td>87.8</td>
<td>148****</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Partial progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ratio of birth attended by skilled health worker</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>44.7**</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ratio of women received antenatal healthcare</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>59.8**</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ratio of women using family control means</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>34***</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sixth Goal: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Accumulative number of Aids registered cases</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4545*</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ratio of incidence of malaria per 100,000 persons</td>
<td>1263</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>670**</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ratio of incidence of tuberculosis per 100,000 person</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>39**</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Seventh Goal: Ensure environmental sustainability</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Proportion of population without sustainable access to improved water source</td>
<td>65.1</td>
<td>1991</td>
<td>32.6</td>
<td>40****</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Great progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of population with no access to improved sanitation</td>
<td>89.4</td>
<td>1994</td>
<td>44.7</td>
<td>48****</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eighth Goal: Developing a global partnership for development</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The foreign grants to GDP (%)</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3.4****</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Partial progress, It is not widely used in development areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign debt to GDP (%)</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>21.5****</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exports and imports share to GDP (%)</td>
<td>29.4</td>
<td>1991</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>67****</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of Landline phones subscribers per 100 persons</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4.3****</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source:
*** MPHP and CSO, NHDS, 2013.
**** UNICEF et al., NSPMS, 2013.
2. **Main challenges faced in achieving the MDGs:**

Yemen encountered several challenges that weakened its ability to achieve the MDGs. These challenges can be divided into chronic and emerging challenges, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chronic Challenges</th>
<th>Emerging Challenges</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. <strong>High population growth rate</strong> of (3%) per annum increases the pressure on basic services and labor market. In addition, the population is dispersed over settlements of 133,000 clusters, which are inaccessible due to mountainous terrains lack of access road, limiting the delivery of services to all population groups and increasing the costs.</td>
<td>1. <strong>Climate change:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. <strong>Limited funding capabilities</strong> for the national economy due to the severe deterioration in producing crude oil, and the incapability of the taxation system in addition to the limited funding from the donors to the MDGs programs.</td>
<td>• <strong>Scarcity of water resources:</strong> Yemen is classified among the poorest countries in water resources in the world. This poses a threat to the sustainability of the agricultural sector, the food security and the economic development in general.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. <strong>Poor human resources development,</strong> including the widespread illiteracy and high dropouts rates from education, in addition to the poor access to healthcare services particularly in rural areas.</td>
<td>• <strong>Natural disasters:</strong> the heavy rainfall resulted in floods in some of the southern governorates is considered one of the most dangerous natural disasters Yemen experienced during the last decades. It caused a lot of damages for the houses, the agriculture and fishing sectors and the infrastructure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. <strong>Deficient infrastructure,</strong> most of which is the poor electricity coverage from the public grid to 60.7% of the population. Moreover, only 29% of households had access to water inside the dwelling, in addition to the limited rural roads networks.</td>
<td>2. <strong>External shocks:</strong> Yemen has been affected by several external shocks like the financial crisis and the global food crisis. The negative repercussions on the Yemeni economy were reflected by the high food prices, the decline of the crude oil prices, the decrease of the remittances from Yemeni immigrants abroad and the foreign direct investments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. <strong>Widening food security gap</strong> especially in light of the low agricultural productivity, widening Qat cultivation and consuming.</td>
<td>3. <strong>Insecurity and political instability</strong> due to the terrorist acts of Al-Qaeda, wars in Sa`ada governorate and the call for the secession of the south part of Yemen by the Southern Movement. In addition to the political change in 2011 as well as the subsequent events which caused the development indicators recess and go back for years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. <strong>Prevalence of poverty and unemployment, and limited coverage of social security net,</strong> which cover only a small proportion of the poor.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. <strong>Inadequate performance of state institutions</strong> to carry out their development functions, including poor efficiency and independence of integrity and accountability frameworks.</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. **Lessons learned during the MDGs process:**

1. MDGs were ambitious and require huge funds estimated at 48.4 billion dollar to be achieved against the limited available local funding resources. In such situation, it was difficult to accomplish all the goals at the same time. It would be better to focus on selected priorities to achieve success stories.

2. The MDGs were global goals; however, neither the public investments nor the donor support were adequate. The Yemeni per capita of net official development assistance remains very low in comparison to other similar countries. This is attributed to many factors including the complicated procedures and conditions by some donors and the weak absorptive capacity of donor aid. Therefore, it’s important to develop a real partnership in practice not on paper with donors and mobilize their grants through transparent and competent mechanisms.

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3. The MDGs were also a national commitment of governments to their citizens, but there has been a lack of mobilization of local development partners from the private sector, civil society and local communities, in addition to the weak state institutions. This has also contributed to hindering the process of achieving the MDGs.

4. The political instability and consecutive cycles of conflict in Yemen during the past period constituted additional obstacles to achieving the MDGs in a country that is already suffering from limited public resources, water scarcity and rampant poverty. This requires sustainable remedies for the roots of the conflict.

5. Most of the MDGs were integrated into national development plans, but there was a gap between the objectives of the development plans and priorities of spending in the state public budget. For instance, fuel subsidies, defense and security expenditures accounted for 46.4% of public expenditure during 2007-2013. This crowded out spending priorities on the MDGs sectors.

6. Lack of an effective monitoring and evaluation mechanism. This was confirmed through the lack of periodic reports to monitor progress in achieving the MDGs. Yemen prepared only two reports, the first MDGs report in 2003 and the second one in 2010. At the same time, the outputs of the aforementioned follow-up reports were not reflected as a matrix of decisions and practical interventions.

7. Weak statistical capacity to monitor MDGs indicators. Most of the MDGs indicators were produced through statistical surveys that are conducted once every 5-10 years such as the Demographic Health Survey, Household Budget Survey and Labor Force Survey. This made the timely monitoring, evaluation, policy-making and interventions more difficult.

Second: Sustainable Development Goals 2016-2030

1. What are the SDGs:

All Member States of the United Nations adopted the SDGs in September 2015. They are a set of 17 Global Goals combining the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental - and seeking to end poverty, transform lives, promote peace and protect the planet. These objectives include 169 targets that need to be incorporated into national plans and work to achieve them during the upcoming years up to 2030. The figure (2) below represents a simplified picture of these objectives.

![Figure (2): Sustainable Development Goals](source: UN Tribune)

2. Samples of SDGs indicators in Yemen:

The SDGs include a long list of indicators (232 indicators) that needs to be followed to identify the level of progress in achieving the SDGs. However, Yemen has not yet prepared the first report on the SDGs to determine our current status because it requires technical support which is not available yet. Given the lack of statistical data, a set of selected SDG indicators in Yemen will be highlighted as follows:
**Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere:**

**Sub-goal 1.2:** By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.

**Indicator 1.2.1:** Proportion of population living below the national poverty line.

Poverty is a chronic problem in Yemen. To alleviate poverty, national development plans and programs sought to meet the MDGs and reduce by half the proportion of households living below the national poverty line (20.1%) in 2015. Unfortunately, poverty has become more widespread, reaching 49% in 2014 (Household Budget Survey, 2014). This means that almost one in each two people live below the national poverty line(1).

The proportion of people living below the national poverty line is currently estimated over 70%(2). This is attributed to the ongoing conflict, loss of employment and income opportunities, limited access to basic services, deterioration of the Yemeni riyal exchange rate and rise of inflation. In addition to the nonpayment of public employee salaries and suspension of the social welfare transfers. This requires comprehensive remedies such as activating and expanding the social protection programs and increasing the amount of cash transfers and the number of the Social Welfare Fund’s beneficiaries.

**Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.**

**Sub-goal 2.1:** By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.

**Indicator 2.1.2:** Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population.

The proportion of food insecurity in Yemen (moderate + acute) increased from 41.1% of the population in 2014 to 60% in 2016 (IPC, March 2017). Food insecurity indicators are worsening every day, reaching alarming levels. An estimated 17 million Yemenis are food insecure and need urgent humanitarian assistance to save lives and protect livelihoods, according to indicators of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification for March 2017. Out of the total population, 10.2 million people are suffering from moderate food insecurity while 6.8 million are facing acute food insecurity. This makes Yemen the world’s largest food security emergency case.

The worsening food insecurity is mainly attributed to the high prices of food, fuel, water and medicine, coinciding with the loss of employment and income opportunities. In addition to the internal displacement of millions of citizens. Moreover, the nonpayment of salaries has severely affected the state employees, their families and poor beneficiaries of the Social Welfare Fund, who lost the purchasing power to have access to food and basic goods and services. As well as the absence of social and government protection mechanisms for the poorest and most vulnerable people.

Food insecurity is divided into five phases. Even though Yemen has not yet reached the last phase (famine) there are pockets of severe food insecurity in some areas which could lead to famine. This aggravates the humanitarian situation and undermines the social peace in the country.

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(1) The poverty headcount is based on a national poverty line of YER 10,913 (or about US$50) per capita per month in 2014 prices. In terms of 2011 PPP terms, it is about US$3.52 per person per day, or about US$105.6 per person per month.

(2) Initial simulation for Poverty incidence for 2016 by the World Bank (unpublished).
Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Sub-goal 3.2: By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births.

Indicator 3.2.1: Under-five mortality rate per 1,000 live births.

The under-five mortality rate decreased from 122 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 53 per 1,000 live births in 2013 (Demographic Health Survey, 2014). However, Yemen remained far from achieving the target value (40.6) in the MDGs 2015. Currently, despite the absence of updated survey data, there is no doubt that the child mortality indicator has increased sharply due to the negative repercussions of the on going war on children’s lives and the health system in the country.

Health facilities sustained direct damages and the health system suffered from a shortage of doctors, medicine and equipment, as well as the absence of operating expenses and nonpayment of health workers salaries for months. This has severely affected the continuity of health services. The health system is operating at less than half capacity. Only 45% out of 3,507 health facilities are still working with full capacity, while the rest have stopped functioning completely. Moreover, 6 in every 10 health facilities are unable to provide nutrition and child health services. As for the health workers, only 60% of 261 obstetricians and 5% of 794 neonatal nurses are available in public health facilities (WB, blueprint report, 2017). Infectious and fatal diseases of infants and adults such as cholera have killed hundreds of Yemenis and affected hundreds of thousands in less than a month, apart from the growing malnutrition among children. All of these factors increase child mortality and vulnerability.

Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Sub-goal 4.1: By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.

Indicator 4.1.1: Enrollment rate in primary and secondary education.

Education plays a pivotal role in building the human capital and increasing individual productivity and income. The net enrollment rate in basic education (6-14 years) reached 72% in 2012 and 23.5% in secondary education (15-17 years) (NSPMS, 2012-2013).

The education system is currently on the verge of collapse with (i) education infrastructure no longer accessible because they are damaged or used for other purposes (approximately 2,500 schools), (ii) teachers absent from class because they have not been paid (73% of teacher force), (iii) insufficiently equipped schools (close to 450,000 benches damaged), (iv) end-of cycle examinations (G9 and 12) postponed for lack of resources, and (v) lack of food affecting children’s cognitive functions and ability to attend to school. Nearly two million students are current out-of-school (OCHA, Yemen: 2017 Humanitarian Needs Overview), and those still attending unable to learn properly because they do not have access to textbooks, indicating that many Yemeni children are deprived of their right to education, with negative effects on stability and development now and in the future.
Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

Sub-goal 6.1: By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.

Indicator 6.1.1: Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services.

Yemen is one of the world’s most water scarce countries, with renewable water resources per capita of less than 100 m$^3$ per annum, most of which is used for Qat cultivation (WB, blueprint report, 2017). The proportion of households using an improved drinking water source reached 60% in 2013 (NSPMS, 2013). In other words, 40% of Yemen’s population did not use an improved drinking water source, which is far below the target rate (32.6%) in the MDGs 2015. There is a large gap in Yemen compared to the global average, where 91% of the world’s population is using an improved drinking water source by 2015.

The situation has worsened at the current time. According to the Humanitarian Response Plan 2017, 14.5 million people (53 percent of the population) in Yemen need humanitarian assistance to access WASH, where Yemenis suffer from a severe water shortage through the public network in large parts of the country. This is attributed to the physical damage to water facilities in several areas. For example, 43% of the water resources in Sana’a, Aden and Taiz governorates sustained direct damage (WB, blueprint report, 2017). In addition to the inability of local authorities to provide operating expenses and fuel and rehabilitate water and sanitation facilities and inability of consumers to pay water invoices. This deprives citizens, especially the low-income people, of their right to access water through the public grid. Children and women often bear the burden of bringing water to their homes.

Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

Sub-goal 7.1: By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services.

Indicator 7.1.1: Proportion of population with access to electricity.

Power is an essential factor in the development process and an important entry point for the economic and social rights of citizens. Without power, it’s difficult to have access to education, health and water services and improve the individual’s livelihood. The percentage of Yemeni households using electricity as the main source of lighting reached 74.5% in 2013, according to the National Social Protection Monitoring Survey. This percentage declines to 60.7% through the public grid (NSPMS, 2013). Yemen remains below the world average, with 85% of the world’s population receiving electricity through the public grid in 2012. Whatever the percentage is, it hides chronic problems as Yemenis suffer from power outages for several hours a day since the mid-1990s.

Currently, 90% of Yemen’s population lacks electricity from the public grid due to the shortage of fuel provided to power stations and the damages to the electricity sector (WB, Country Engagement Note, 2016). Residents of coastal areas suffer the most and live in agony due to the high temperature during summer.

To overcome this tragedy, Yemen will have to accelerate the restoration of peace and exert double efforts to make progress, even partially, towards the goal of energy for all.
Third: The Way Forward:

1. Inclusion of the SDGs in the National Development Plan:

Yemen lacks a national plan or strategic vision for development because of the ongoing war and the problems that have resulted from it in various fields, including:

- Scarcity of public revenues, including the suspension of oil and gas exports and the inability of the state budget to finance not only the expenditure of basic social services but also the payment of salaries of public employees. Consequently, there is no allocations for sustainable development.
- Limited donor support which is restricted only to humanitarian assistance.
- Inability of the state institutions to carry out their planning and executive functions for the development process.
- Prioritizing the political and military affairs to the sustainable development priorities.
- The dynamic losses in human and physical capital, worsening humanitarian conditions, and uncertainty about the future.

Therefore, the focus now is on the humanitarian aspect, where United Nations agencies are preparing an annual humanitarian response plan that aims at mitigating the effects of the war on some indicators of the SDGs such as malnutrition and food insecurity indicators.

After reaching a political settlement, Yemen will have to integrate the SDGs into the upcoming National Reconstruction and Recovery Plan and the sectoral strategies and programs, taking into account the following:

- Conduct social and economic assessment of the consequences of the war to identify the necessary interventions for reconstruction, peace-building and achieve sustainable development.
- Identify the needs to achieve the SDGs, mobilize donor support and benefit from their SDGs initiatives.
- Out of the 231 indicators included in the final global list of the SDGs indicators, the priority indicators selected at the national level will be shortlisted to be monitored periodically.
- Building an accurate database of the SDGs and developing reasonable targets for those indicators that take into account the country conditions, priorities and resources that can be mobilized.
- Prepare a long-term strategic vision 2030 to build peace and sustainable development.
- Ensure integrated and sector-wide interventions to achieve the SDGs focusing on the most war-affected and disadvantaged areas.
- Ensure political commitment and integrating the SDGs indicators into the future government programs and establishing broad-based partnerships and alliances to drive development change.

2. SDGs needs and the donors role:

Findings of the Sectoral Needs Assessment Report 2005 indicate that Yemen can achieve acceptable levels of human development if it is able to implement a ten-year rehabilitation program (2006-2015), where the total public spending on the MDGs amounted to $48.4 billion, divided to health, agriculture, fisheries, roads, electricity and water and sanitation sectors. However, the actual spending rate did not exceed 8% of the total requirements required for 2006-2009 (Second Yemen MDGs Report, 2010). After that, Yemen experienced escalating economic, political and security crises and remained out of track to achieve the MDGs 2015.

As the countries worldwide are implementing the SDGs 2016-2030, Yemen loses a part of the modest development achievements of the last decades due to the ongoing war. There is no final assessment of the costs of damage and the needs to achieve the SDGs. However, early estimates published by the World Bank on Yemen’s rebuilding needs, which amounted to $88 billion over the next five years to 2022, can be used as guidance. This amount is divided to sectors falling under the SDGs: food security, economic stability, social protection, health, education, water, transportation, housing and energy. These funds are essential to ensure the safe movement of Yemen’s economy from the stage of response, reconstruction and transformation and prepare it to the next phase of stabilization and sustainable development.
Given the scarce local resources, there is an urgent need to mobilize enough donor support to improve the opportunities of achieving peace and sustainable development and to break the cycle of generational poverty. Without sufficient support to humanitarian and development situations during war and peace, it will be impossible for Yemen not only to achieve the SDGs, but also to restore the pre-war status. The following are some priority issues:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key issues</th>
<th>Urgent priorities</th>
<th>In War (Urgent)</th>
<th>In Peace (Mid-Term)</th>
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| Mobilizing donor support for humanitarian response | - Reallocating the donor pledges and mobilizing their new support to:  
  • Bridge the financing gap of the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan.  
  • Disburse the cash assistance to the Social Welfare Fund’s poor beneficiaries.  
  • Finance the operational costs of basic social services (water, electricity, health care and education).  
  - Disbursing the dues of contractors who carried out previous works in the externally-funded projects.  
  - Providing the necessary foreign exchange to import food commodities at the official exchange rate.  
  - Developing cooperation mechanisms with the donors by holding periodic meetings and establishing sectoral teams to coordinate the humanitarian relief efforts.  
  - Reconsidering the donor support programs, giving priority to the most deprived areas like Tihama area on the Red Sea coast and Areas most affected by the war.  
  - Adopting measures to build economic confidence, along with the implementation of the peace agreement, such as putting a $5 billion cash deposit at the CBY, and providing $5 billion direct budget support annually to enable the budget to perform its functions.  
  - Holding an international donors’ conference for reconstruction and national recovery, without requiring the government to contribute to the donor-funded projects.  
  - Holding an international conference to exempt Yemen from external debt and reschedule it.  
  - Financing an ambitious investment program to recover the economic growth and reduce unemployment and poverty rates.  
  - Providing support for assessing conflict damages to public and private facilities, as well as estimating the financing requirements to achieve the SDGs.  
  - Providing support for developing a reconstruction program in accordance with balanced geographical and sectoral priorities and criteria.  
  - Taking appropriate institutional arrangements to manage the implementation of reconstruction projects, including:  
    - Expanding capacity of existing programs such as the Social Fund for Development and the Public Works Project.  
    - Implementing projects directly through the donors’ agencies, and opening donor executive offices to avoid the prolonged routine government measures.  
    - Providing support in establishing National Bureau for reconstruction and recovery. This bureau should be efficient and has financial and administrative capacities and independency.  
    - Benefiting from international experiences in reconstruction, national recovery and compensating the war-affected people.  
    - Developing the institutional and humanitarian capacities of the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, and the executive units in the relevant government agencies.  | | |
| Mobilizing donor support for Reconstructing conflict damages and development | | | |
3. Requirements and Challenges facing the monitoring of SDGs:

Countries worldwide are currently preparing reports on the SDGs for their national purposes and for the purpose of meeting their commitments. Despite the current difficult situation in Yemen, it is important to have an appropriate mechanism in place to follow the SDGs systematically and prepare the first report, which is of great importance as a reference framework for the preparation of post-war development plans and strategies and mobilize donor support. In addition, it will allow the identification of indicator values in the base year 2016 and will also serve as a platform for many stakeholders to discuss possible ways to help Yemen deal with war damages and pave a way for reconstruction.

The following figure indicates the existence of several challenges facing SDGs in Yemen. However, these challenges can be addressed with the availability of financial and technical support.

**Challenges facing the Monitoring SDGs**

- Absence of Financial and Technical Support
- Changing Situation and Geographical Division between the Warring Parties
- Incapability of State Institutions
- Scarce Updated Data

**Requirements for Monitoring the SDGs:**

Provision of financial and technical support to monitor and evaluate the SDGs, as follows:

- Support the establishment of a technical secretariat in the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation to monitor the SDGs 2030.
- Building national capacities on defining the indicators, methods of calculating and customizing them to suit the situation in the country and improve process of policy formulation capacities.
- Providing technical support to build a monitoring and evaluation system and prepare periodic reports to monitor the progress of the SDGs indicators.
- Developing the statistical system to ensure the flow of data related to the SDGs indicators.
- Holding dialogues with the civil society, private sector and the international community, which is committed to assisting poor countries through effective mechanisms for coordinating and developing capacities at the local and central level.
- Promotion of community awareness of the SDGs issues.
- Participation in international forums and events on the SDGs.

**References:**