

# FINAL REPORT

## **Yemen: Country Gender Profile**

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Japan International Cooperation Agency  
Public Policy Department

**Table of Contents**

**Yemen**

Summary

List of Abbreviations

1. Basic Profile

1-1 Socio-Economic Profile ..... 1  
1-2 Health Profile ..... 3  
1-3 Education Profile ..... 4

2. General Situation of Women and Government Policy on Gender

2-1 General Situation of Women in Yemen ..... 5  
2-2 Government Policy on Gender ..... 8  
2-3 National Machinery ..... 11

3. Current Situation of Women by Sector

3-1 Education ..... 14  
3-2 Health ..... 19  
3-3 Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries ..... 22  
3-4 Economic Activities ..... 26  
3-5 Migration ..... 29

4. Gender Projects ..... 31

5. Gender Information Sources

5-1 List of International Organization and NGOs related to Gender ..... 33  
5-2 List of Reports and References related to Gender ..... 35

References

Definitions

## Summary

Yemen is classified as a 'least developed country' and it is the poorest country in the Arab world. Yemen consistently ranks last in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index. It also ranks last among countries rated according to the UNDP's gender empowerment measure.

Yemen's Strategic Vision 2025 aims to raise the country's status from LDC to one of 'medium human development' by 2025. Yemen's National Strategy for Women's Development (NSWD) 2006-2015 provides a detailed policy framework to reduce gender inequalities. Yemen's Third Socio-Economic Development Plan for Poverty Reduction 2006-2010 seeks to fulfill both YSV 2025 and the gender-related goals of the NSWD.

Yemen created the Supreme Council for Women's Affairs (SCWA) in 2000. The SCWA oversees the Women's National Committee, which proposes gender-based policies and monitors implementation of the NSWD. This structure is designed to support Yemen's improving rhetorical commitment to women's rights but the weak nature of all central institutions accounts for a wide gulf between government policy and the reality on the ground.

Yemen signed the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women in 1984 and has made efforts to bring domestic law into line with these international commitments but Yemen's courts have limited reach beyond the capital, Sana'a, and the legal system lacks credibility. Instead, community life and traditional cultural practices are regulated and enforced by tribal sheikhs and Islamic clerics.

Yemen's human development indicators consistently trail the average for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) by a wide margin; they are closer to the average for sub-Saharan Africa, and often lower. Yemeni women face a lifetime risk of maternal death that is nearly four times higher than the MENA average.

Yemen made strong early gains in reducing the rates of infant mortality and under-five mortality but the trend has slowed in recent years. More than half of children under five suffer from moderate and severe stunting – the second worst rate in the world. Infrastructure investment has increased the number of health facilities in recent years but access to basic health care in some rural areas is low as 20%.

Among the Arab states, Yemen has made the greatest advance in narrowing the ratio of male to female enrolment rates in basic education but it still demonstrates the greatest disparity in

primary gross enrollment rates for girls and boys in the region. Youth literacy (15-24 years) stands at 93% for men and 67% for women. Adult literacy is lower - at 59% - with a clear gender gap of 40% literacy among women and 77% among men. The gender gap in adult literacy is compounded by disparities between urban and rural areas, with women's rural literacy running as low as 24%.

Three quarters of the population live in rural areas, in small, scattered settlements. Food insecurity, high rates of rural poverty and long distances to schools and hospitals compound the gender gap in service access for women in rural areas. The vast majority of women workers are employed in agricultural sector, but productivity and incomes are extremely low. Many women work unpaid, as family labour, but in some regions women are hired as day labourers in family work gangs. Yemen's laws allow for women to own and inherit property, but women are systemically deprived of their inheritance rights.

Traditional cultural attitudes inhibit women's economic participation in Yemen, and most working women are employed informally. Only an estimated 8% of working women are paid for their labour. Yemen ranks last on economic participation and opportunity in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index, and comes second-last on political empowerment. There is one woman member of parliament and two cabinet ministers.

Early marriage is Yemen's biggest single development challenge, because it has a negative impact on maternal health, child health, girls' education, women's literacy and women's economic empowerment. There are no reliable national figures on early marriage but, according to estimates based on surveys by university researchers and development agencies, one in every two brides in Yemen is aged 18 or under.

Yemen's minimum marriage age of 15 was revoked a decade ago to allow parents to decide when their daughters should marry. The revised ruling was agreed in line with an interpretation of the Koran that claims there is no proscribed age for marriage. In February 2009, parliament passed a measure to reinstate a legal minimum, setting the age at 17, but lawmakers opposed on religious grounds are calling for the measure to be reversed.

Women's NGOs and civil society groups continue to face opposition from an influential religious lobby. Advocacy for equality and gender empowerment is most often conducted in reference to Islam, rather than the language of international human rights conventions, in order to avoid accusations of promoting western agendas. Macroeconomic challenges in the coming years, forced by the decline in oil production, will place budgetary strain on the central state institutions and civil society organizations (CSOs) that currently work to promote women's rights.

## **List of Abbreviations**

CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
CSO	Civil society organization
DPPR	Third Socio-Economic Development Plan for Poverty Reduction 2006-2010
FGM	Female genital mutilation
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HIV/AIDS	Human-Immunodeficiency Virus/ Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
LDC	Least Developed Country
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
NSWD	National Strategy for Women's Development 2006-2015
ORT	Oral Rehydration Therapy
PHC	Primary Health Care
SCWA	Supreme Council for Women's Affairs
SFD	Social Fund for Development
TEVT	Technical education and vocational training
UNDP	United Nations Development Programs
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
WHO	World Health Organization
WNC	Women's National Committee
YSV	Yemen's Strategic Vision 2025

# 1. Basic Profile

## 1-1 Socio-Economic Profile

**Economic Indicators** source: 1), \*2), \*\*3)

GNI/Capita (US\$)**	Growth rate of GDP	GDP Implicit deflator	GINI index*	Aid/GDP*
870 (07)	4.0 % (00-07)	13.5% (00-07)	33.4 (08)	2.2% (05)
520 (03)	2.7% (04)	25.8% (94)	33.4 (06)	8.3% (90)

**Demographic Indicators** source: 1), \*2), \*\*3)

Total (millions)	% of female population	% of urban population**	Population growth rate	Total Fertility Rate **	Life Expectancy	
					Male	Female
23 (07)	49%	28% (07)	3.0% (00-07)	5.5% (07)	61 (06)	64 (06)
21.1 (05)*		34% (98)	3.0% (00-04)	7.5 (98)	57 (03)	58 (03)

**Public Sector Expenditure to sectors** source: 3)

	Health	Education	Social Welfare	Defense	Others
97-06	4%	22%	-	19%	-
92-98	4%	18%	-	17%	-

**Industry** source: 2)

	Agriculture	Industry	Service
97	16%	43%	40%
94	23%	24%	54%

**Labour Indicators** source 2)

Total	Employment – total (000)	Unemployment Rate	Minimum wage	female	Employment % of total	Unemployment F/M %	Minimum wage

**Proportion of workers** source: 2)

male	Agriculture	Industry	Service	female	Agriculture	Industry	Service
1995-05	43%	14%	43%	1995-05	88%	3%	9%
1995-02	43%	14%	43%	1995-02	88%	3%	9%

**Women in decision-making** source: 2)

	Members of parliament	Women in government at ministerial level	Legislators, senior officials & managers	Professional and technical
2007-08	0.7%	2.9 (05)	4%	15%
2000	0.7%	-	-	-

**Law for Women**

Nationality law (inc. children of foreign born spouse)	1990
Law on civil status (minimum marriage age)	1991
Regulation of prisons (inc. prenatal and postnatal care)	1991
Personal status law (inc. termination of marriage)	1992
Labour law (inc. nursery facilities for 50+ women workers)	1995

**Ratification and signature of international law for women**

International Labour Organization Equal Remuneration Convention (No. 100 of 1951)	1976
Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women	1984
International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	1987
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	1987
International Labour Organization Convention No. (156 of 1981) concerning Equal Opportunities and Equal Treatment for Men and Women Workers	1989
Convention on the Rights of the Child	1991

**Policy of Gender**

National Strategy for Women's Development 2006-2015
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**Governmental organization of Gender**

Supreme Council for Women's Affairs	Executive body
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Women's National Committee	Technical committee
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**References**

- 1) World Bank World Development Report – successive years
- 2) UN Human Development Report – successive years
- 3) UNICEF The State of the World's Children – successive years

## 1-2 Health Profile

### Expansion of health service source: 2), \*4)

No. of physicians	No. of Hospital Beds*	Public expenditure on health (% of GDP)
(per 1,000 people)		
33 (00-04)	7.0 (2006)	

### Child Health source: 3)

	Mortality Rate		% of the vaccinated (1-year-old children)				
	Infant (per1,000)	Under-5 (per1,000)	BCG	DPT		Polio	Measles
2007	55	73	64%	94% (DPT1) 87% (DPT3)		87%	74%
1990	90	127	77%	68%		68%	66%

### Family planning source: 1), \*\*3), \*\*\*5)

Contraceptive prevalence rate**	Births attendance rate	Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000)	Age at first marriage (yrs old)***	Total fertility rate**	HIV/AIDS source: *2)	
					% age 15-49*	Women (No.of age 15-49)
28% (00-07)	27%(00-07)	430 (05)	24.7(m)	5.5 (07)	<0.2 (05)	-
10% (90)	16%(90)	570 (00)	20.8(f) (94)	8.1 (90)	0.1 (03)	-

### Nutrition source: 2)

% of infants with low birth weight	Oral re-hydration therapy use rate
32(00-07)†	23% (98-05)
19(90-97)	35% (90-98)

### Community health service source: 3)

	Access to safe water		Access to adequate sanitation	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
2006	68%	65%	88%	30%
90-98	72%	57%	96%	57%

† Data refer to a year or period other than that specified, differ from the standard definition or refer to only part of a country



### 1-3 Education Profile

#### Commitment to Education source: 2)

Education system (years)	
Compulsory	Primary
Age 6-15	6('98)

Public expenditure on education (as % of)	
GDP	gov. expenditure
9.6 (02-05)	32.8 (02-05)
7.0 (95-97)	21.6 (95-97)

#### Adult literacy rate source: 2)

	Total	Male	Female
95-05	54.1%	73.1%	34.7%
98	44.1%	-	-

#### Enrollment Ratio source: 3), \*6)

	Primary education (Net enrollment ratio)	
	Male	Female
00-06	87%	63%
90-96	-	-

	Secondary education (Gross enrollment ratio)	
	Male	Female
00-07	61%	30%
90-96	53%	14%

	Higher education (Gross enrollment ratio)*	
	Male	Female
2006	14%	5%
2000	16%	4%

### References

- 1) World Bank World Development Report – successive years
- 2) UN Human Development Report – successive years
- 3) UNICEF The State of the World's Children – successive years
- 4) World Health Organisation Statistical Information System
- 5) United Nations World Marriage Patterns 2000
- 6) UNESCO tertiary indicators

## 2. General Situation of Women and Government Policy on Gender

### 2-1 General Situation of Women in Yemen

#### General Situation of Women in Yemen

- 1) Yemen ranks last in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index and the UNDP's gender empowerment measure.
- 2) High rural poverty rates, wide population dispersal, weak central institutions and the strength of conservative social attitudes compound gender disparities in rural areas.
- 3) Early marriage is Yemen's biggest single development challenge but the national debate about setting a minimum marriage age is highly politicized.
- 4) The notion of 'gender' has a controversial history and there is still acute sensitivity to the term. Advocacy for equality is most often conducted in reference to Islam.

#### General situation

Yemen is classified as a 'least developed country' and it is the poorest country in the Arab world. Yemen consistently ranks last in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index. It also ranks last among countries rated according to the UNDP's gender empowerment measure.

#### *Yemen's gender gap – rankings by sub-index*

Economic participation & opportunity	130 of 130 countries
Educational attainment	129 of 130 countries
Health & survival <sup>1</sup>	1 of 130 countries
Political empowerment	129 of 130 countries

Source: The Global Gender Gap Report 2008

Half of Yemen's 22 million citizens are under sixteen, and the population is set to double by 2035. Its 3.5% annual population growth rate is among the highest in the world. Seven million people live in poverty and the country is heavily dependent on food imports, making it especially vulnerable to global price shocks. Reserves of groundwater and oil are rapidly diminishing, with implications for macroeconomic stability in the coming decade.

After a prolonged hiatus created by Yemen's support for Saddam Hussein during the 1991 Gulf War, international donors have begun to pledge substantial sums. Renewed donor engagement has supported the growth of civil society organisations, improved aid harmonization, and encouraged infrastructure investment. The last decade has seen some

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<sup>1</sup> This category provides an overview of the differences between women and men's health, using the gap between women and men's healthy life expectancy, and the sex ratio at birth.

tangible improvements in human development indicators – for example, under-five mortality and infant mortality rates have fallen – but the scale of the challenge is still formidable.

Low capacity in the civil service hinders Yemen's ability to implement the current five-year development plan. The high prevalence of rural poverty, the extreme nature of population dispersal in rural areas, and strength of conservative rural social attitudes compound the gender gap in service access. These factors help to explain why access to basic health care in some rural areas is low as 20%, why women's rural literacy is running as low as 24%, and girls' secondary school enrolment stands at 5% in Shabwa governorate.

Early marriage is Yemen's biggest single development challenge, because it has a negative impact on maternal health, child health, girls' education, women's literacy and women's economic empowerment. There are no reliable national figures on early marriage but, according to estimates based on surveys by university researchers and development agencies, one in every two brides in Yemen is aged 18 or under. The phenomenon of child marriage transcends the urban-rural divide and cuts across economic categories. Even powerful families arrange alliance marriages by bartering their daughters into the power structures at an early age, but girls from the poorest families are most at risk.

Yemen's minimum marriage age of 15 was revoked a decade ago to allow parents to decide when their daughters should marry. The ruling was agreed in line with an interpretation of the Koran that claims there is no proscribed age for marriage. In February 2009, parliament passed a measure to reinstate a legal minimum, setting the age at 17, but lawmakers opposed on religious grounds have invoked a measure that could see the legislation reversed.

The notion of 'gender' itself has a controversial history in Yemen. In 1999, the word became highly politicized, the gender studies department at Sana'a University was closed down and women's activists received death threats. During the last decade, discourse about 'women's rights' and 'women's empowerment' has become more common but there is still acute sensitivity to the term 'gender', which needs to be navigated with delicacy and requires careful, contextual translation into Arabic.

Women's NGOs and civil society groups are still working to establish a modern social contract that's grounded in the constitution and reflected in the legal system. While they have created some social momentum and broadened general awareness of women's issues, they have not yet achieved necessary reforms or the eradication of discriminatory laws. The mix statutory law, sharia, traditional tribal practices and customary law leave women vulnerable to violence and discrimination throughout their life cycle.

Women's rights advocates still face opposition from an influential religious lobby. In 2008, a panel of Islamic clerics and prominent tribal chiefs announced the creation of a Meeting for Protecting Virtue and Fighting Vice. The new self-appointed morality authority condemned a proposal to allocate 15% of parliamentary seats to women and decreed that a woman's place was in the home. Within Yemen, advocacy for equality and gender empowerment is most often conducted in reference to Islam, rather than the language of international human rights conventions, in order to avoid accusations of promoting western agendas.

Contact between men and women is highly regulated, even among family groups and within the private sphere. Men and women socialise in separate areas inside the household, and male guests (even male in-laws) will rarely encounter female members of their host's family. In public places or among extended family, Yemeni women wear full-length black robes, known as *balto* or *abaya*, a headscarf - the *hijab* - and a full face covering, known as *niqab*. The *niqab* consists of three fabric layers, and the top layer can be pulled down to cover the eyes. Some Yemeni women also wear black gloves in public to fully protect their modesty.

## 2-2 Government Policy on Gender

### National Strategy for Women's Development

- 1) Yemen's Strategic Vision 2025 aims to raise the country's international ranking from a 'least developed country' to one of 'medium human development'.
- 2) Yemen's National Strategy for Women's Development 2006-2015 provides a specific policy framework to promote gender equality and women's rights.
- 3) Yemen's Third Socio-Economic Development Plan for Poverty Reduction 2006-2010 seeks to fulfill both YSV 2025 and the gender-related goals of the NSWSD 2006-2015.

#### **Government Policies on Gender**

YSV 2025 aims to transform the country's international ranking from a 'least developed country' to one of 'medium human development' by raising per capita income, stimulating economic growth and reducing the population growth rate. Key gender-related goals include reducing illiteracy to less than 10% of the population; increasing school enrollment for basic education, especially for girls; and raising women's participation in the labor force to 50%.

Yemen's NSWSD 2006-2015 provides a specific policy framework to promote gender equality and women's rights. It aims to:

- provide universal basic education by 2015, to ensure equal access for male and female students at all educational stages, and to reduce illiteracy among girls and women by half.
- expand women's access to adequate health care throughout the life cycle and to encourage women's employment in the health sector.
- cut the rate of women living in poverty by half and enhance women's economic empowerment by effective participation in economic and environmental decision-making
- increase women's participation in leadership positions and decision-making at all levels, to upgrade the national mechanisms for women, and to support the capacity of NGOs
- facilitate women's experience of their human rights guaranteed by Sharia, national legislation and international laws, and to eradicate all forms of discrimination still practiced against women.
- expand women's participation in the media and improve their access to information technology.

Yemen's NSWSD 2006-2015 runs in parallel with DPPR 2006-2010, which sets out detailed targets and policy initiatives and represents growing awareness of gender mainstreaming.

Yemen's Social Fund for Development (SFD) is an innovative quasi-governmental body that delivers community services to meet local needs and supports the implementation of the NSW and the DPPR. Between 1997 and 2007, the SFD committed nearly \$600 million to almost 7,000 projects that provided access to basic services for more than 14 million direct beneficiaries, more than half of them female. The SFD has developed a Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and Framework, which seeks to maximize efforts to improve women's status and create a blueprint approach for government ministries, local authorities and civil society organizations working at the community level.

### **Gender related laws and regulations**

Article 41 of Yemen's Constitution states that "all citizens are equal in public rights and duties." However, Article 31 reads: "Women are men's sisters. They have rights and obligations that are guaranteed and prescribed by *sharia* and provided for by the law." Freedom House notes that Article 31 "has served as the foundation of a number of Yemen's discriminatory laws, with Yemen's male clergy and legislators citing the *shari'a* as justification. The wording of Article 31 implies that women are not equal citizens but rather are sisters of male citizens. This article has serious repercussions for women's equality and empowerment in a culture in which males are typically viewed and treated as superior to females within the family." Inconsistencies between Articles 31 and 41 leave a range of matters open to judicial selectivity and multiple interpretations by individual judges.

Women are vastly underrepresented in the judiciary and Yemeni women face systemic legal discrimination. A Yemeni woman is not recognized as a full person before the court, and the testimony of two women equals the testimony of one man. Women are forbidden to testify in cases of adultery, libel, theft or sodomy. Financial compensation or blood money for a Yemeni woman who is killed amounts to half that for a murdered man.

Female prisoners are detained separately from men and women often remain in jail after the end of their sentence, because male relatives refuse to authorize their release. There are around 1,000 women imprisoned in Yemen. The majority of these women are between 14 and 20. The main causes for them being imprisoned are adultery, prostitution, stealing, and being found in a private place with a man who is not their husband or a close relative.

Both family traditions and statutory laws restrict women's freedom of choice and freedom of movement. Yemeni women are prohibited from concluding their own wedding contracts and the law allows the silence of a virgin bride to signify her consent to marriage. A man is permitted to take as many as four wives and a husband may divorce a wife without justifying

his action in court. Under Yemeni personal status code, a wife is obliged to yield to the authority of her husband and she must obtain her husband's permission to leave the house. A Yemeni woman must obtain permission from her husband or father to apply for a passport and may face obstructions if she wishes to travel abroad without an escort.

During 2003 and 2004, Yemen's legal framework was reviewed for CEDAW compliance, which led to five amendments relating to Nationality, Personal Status, Labour, Prisons, and the Law on Civil Status. However, aspects of tribal custom, cultural practice and sharia law continue to conflict with Yemen's international legal obligations. The DPPR pledges that "adjustments to existing legal instruments will be continued to ensure compliance with the Constitution of Yemen and her international treaties and commitments." It adds: "Women's *sharia*-based rights pertaining to the family will also be protected through new legislation, and family courts will be established to facilitate adjudication of social cases. To protect the rights of divorced women, an 'alimony fund' will be established."

### **Measures to combat sexual and domestic violence**

There is no accurate data on sexual and domestic violence against women, as spousal rape is not criminalized and victims of spousal abuse rarely report their experiences to the police. The NSWD calls for a rights-based discourse in the school curriculum and the media that will help to increase cultural sensitivity to these issues. A four-year pilot project funded by the Netherlands government in partnership with the Sisters Arab Forum aims to promote awareness of domestic violence, establish a telephone hotline and a women's shelter, and train lawyers to handle domestic violence cases.

The DPPR pledges to improve the quick-response capacity of law enforcement agencies, and establish dedicated units in hospitals, schools and work places to deal with issues of violence against women. However, a Yemen Times opinion piece published in 2008 - titled 'There must be violence against women' - reveals the gap between prevailing attitudes and efforts to improve the law enforcement framework. The article warns against the 'misleading propaganda' and 'cultural invasion' of human rights organizations that aim to destroy Yemeni society's 'religious, social and moral norms' by encouraging women to report their fathers or brothers to the police for acts of physical violence in the home.

## 2-3 National Machinery

### Women's National Committee

- 1) The Supreme Council for Women's Affairs oversees the Women's National Committee
- 2) The WNC proposes gender-based policies and monitors implementation of the NSWD

### Background

The WNC was established in 1996 as a technical committee affiliated with the Ministries' Council. In 2000, the WNC's status was upgraded when it became a consultative and administrative body for the new Supreme Council for Women's Affairs, headed by the Prime Minister. A female chairperson was appointed by presidential decree to lead the WNC.

### National

### Machinery

The WNC consists of the chairperson and vice chairperson, civil service staff and directors of the women's departments in the ministries and government institutes. The WNC has branches in 20 of Yemen's 21 governorates and each branch has a female coordinator who sits on the national committee. The WNC also invites representatives from the president's office, the Prime Minister's office, parliament, the Shura Council, the National Population Council, the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, and other government bodies. In addition, the WNC also invites members from NGOs, such as the Yemen's Women's Union, the accredited political parties and other selected CSOs where women have leading positions on the executive boards.

The WNC proposes policies designed to improve the status of Yemeni women, and modifies legislation in compliance with CEDAW and the principle of non-discrimination enshrined in Yemen's constitution. It disseminates information about the NSWD and encourages national bodies to use gender analysis approaches in their project design and evaluation tools, to ensure gender-based outcomes. The WNC monitors implementation of the NSWD and presents an annual report to the Supreme Council for approval. The WNC also commissions surveys and organizes seminars and workshops related to women issues.

WNC vice chair Huria Mashhoor says: "Our big achievement was to have the NSWD incorporated into the five-year plan as a cross-cutting issue within health, education and other sectors. In addition, chapter 10 - titled 'Empowering Women' - dealt with a number of sensitive issues, such as violence against women, women and political participation and legal reform."



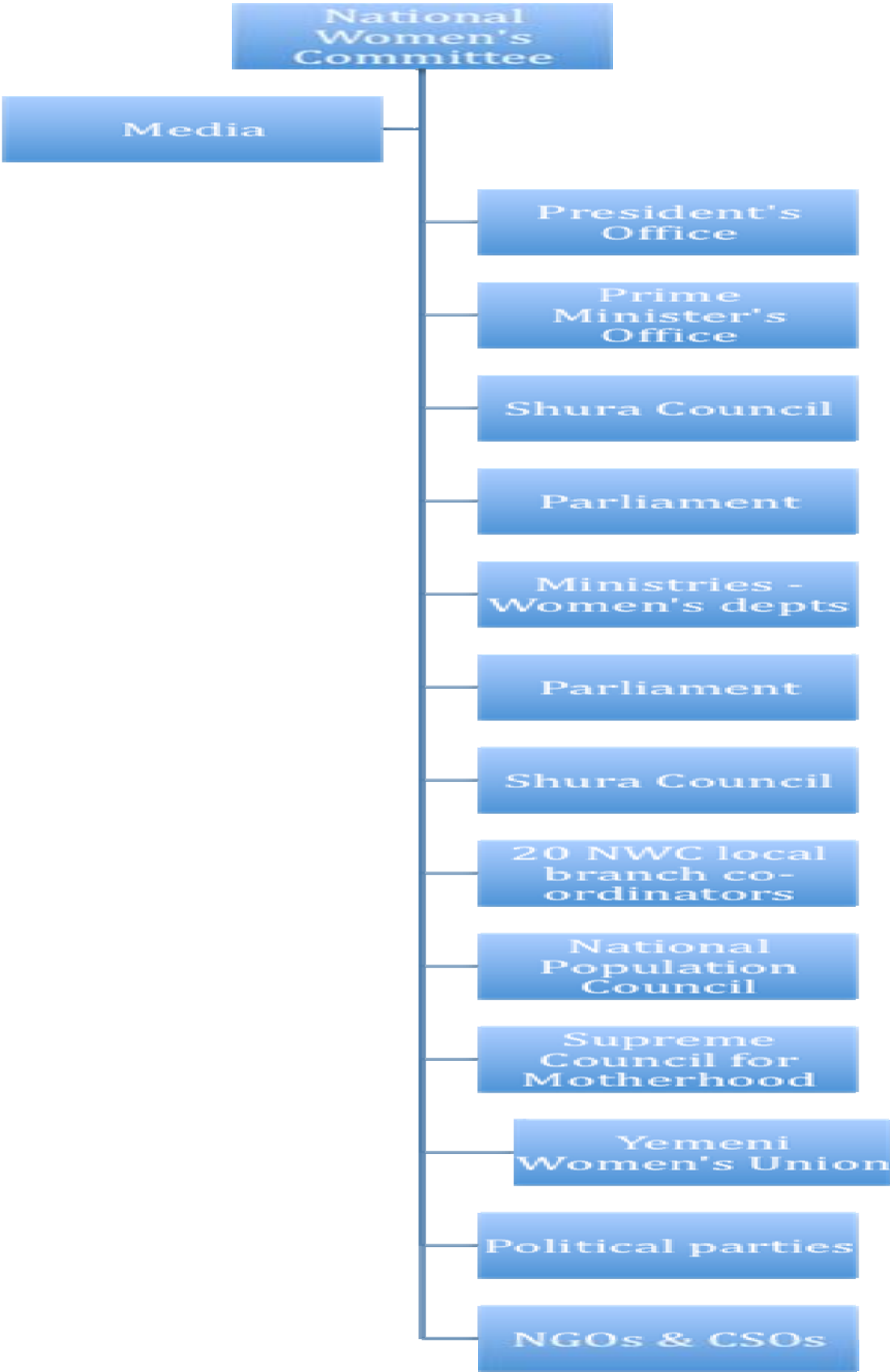
However, the NSWDC notes that the WNC's contribution and attempts of other women's agencies to integrate women's issues into mainstream development are "not positively received or reflected in the executive reality."

An evaluation for the first year of the NSWDC reveals its components were not incorporated in most sectoral plans and programmes, and public resources were not allocated to support the implementation of the strategy.

The NSWDC adds that "some of the women directorates in ministries and governorates are there by name only without any institutional structure or required resources to function adequately (staff, offices...etc) and the others ones exist but without actual participation in policy and programmes design."

Since 2007, representatives from the WNC and the women's directorates have begun to participate in budget discussions with the Ministry of Finance. In order to further boost women's representation within government, the NSWDC contains suggestions for expanding the mandate and resources of all national mechanisms concerned with women's issues. It calls for a 30% quota for women in decision-making positions and pledges to conduct a feasibility study for the creation of a women's development ministry. It also pledges to enhance partnerships between government bodies and NGOs.

**Organisational chart of National Machinery**



### 3. Current Situation of Women by Sector

#### 3-1 Education

##### Education

- 1) Yemen has demonstrated strong improvements in the net enrollment rate for basic education since 1990 and gender parity has also improved.
- 2) However, there is still great disparity in primary enrollment rates for girls and boys and Yemen demonstrates the greatest gender gap for primary education in the Arab region.
- 3) The net female secondary school enrolment rate stands at 26%. The gender disparity in rural enrolment rates at secondary school level is especially pronounced.

#### Gender disparity in basic and secondary education

Education is guaranteed by law for everyone, and it is compulsory in basic education. Yemen has demonstrated strong improvements in the net enrollment rate for basic education since 1990 and gender parity has also improved.

Among the Arab states, Yemen has made the greatest advance in narrowing the ratio of male to female enrolment rates but it still demonstrates the greatest disparity in primary gross enrollment rates for girls and boys in the region. According to UNICEF, the net primary school enrolment rate for 2000-2006 stood at 75% - with 87% enrolment among boys and 63% among girls. The gender gap is lowest in the first year of basic education but the gap widens considerably as students' age increases.

#### *Trends of Basic Education Indicators between 2002 and 2005*

	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
Basic Education Gross Enrollment rate* (%)					
Total	73	73	75	76	76
Girls	54	56	59	62	63
Boys	90	89	90	90	88
Girls' share in enrollment (%)	36	37	38	39	40
Private sector share in enrollment (%)	1.3	1.5	1.7	1.8	2.3
Student-Teacher ratio	24.5	37.2	40.0	40.0	40.0
Student-Class (section) ratio	29.1	30.5	31.0	31.8	32.0

Source: Calculated by the World Bank using MoE School Census 2004/05 and CSO Population Census 2004

There are wide discrepancies in enrolment rates between pupils living in urban and rural areas, and the gender gap in enrolment in rural areas is much more pronounced than in urban areas.

#### *Male and female enrollment rates in different age groups*

Age Group	Urban	Rural
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	Male	Female	Gender Gap	Male	Female	Gender Gap
6-11	84.6%	83.7%	0.9	70.3%	47.9%	22.4
12-14	89.3%	83.4%	5.9	82.8%	41.4%	41.4
15-17	74.3%	63.5%	10.8	66.6%	21.2%	45.4
Total	83.4%	78.9%	4.5	72.6%	40.2%	32.4

Source: UNICEF (2007) Accelerating Girls' Education in Yemen

The survival rate in the last grade of primary school stands at 60% - with 61% survival rates among boys and 57% among girls. School life expectancy – the expected number of years of formal schooling from primary level onwards – stands at 11 for boys and seven for girls. Barriers to girls' attendance include the limited number of girls' schools and/or segregated classrooms in rural areas, the shortage of trained female teacher and the lack of girls' toilets in schools. In addition, the expense of school fees and school transport dissuades parents from supporting their daughters' education, and the cultural premium placed on pubescent girls' virtue – particularly in rural areas – prevents them from travelling long distances to school. The widespread practice of early marriage also inhibits girls' attendance, even among primary pupils, but most significantly at secondary school level.

The net secondary school enrolment rate stands at 37% and with 49% enrolment among boys and 26% among girls. The gender disparity in rural enrolment rates at secondary school level is especially pronounced, with ratios for female pupils ranging from 48% in Sana'a City to 5% in Shabwah governorate (see table). Dropouts from secondary school remain high, especially among girls. The DPPR aims to increase the percentage of girls completing the high school certificate to 36%.

#### Gender balance in secondary education 2005/2006

Governorate	Enrolled/gross students ratio 2005/2006 (male, female)	
Ibb	73.4	26.6
Abyan	72.2	27.8
Sana'a City	52.2	47.8
Al-Baydha	81.8	18.2
Taiz	61.2	38.8
Al-Jawf	71.0	29.0
Hajjah	77.3	22.7
Al-Hodiedah	59.3	40.7
Hadhramout	74.0	26.0
Dhamar	82.1	17.9
Shabwah	94.7	5.3
Sa'adah	88.3	11.7
Sana'a	84.6	15.4
Al-Dhalea	82.5	17.5

Aden	53.1	46.9
Amran	83.1	16.9
Lahaj	71.8	28.2
Marib	75.3	24.7
Al-Mahweet	79.2	20.8
Al-Maharah	57.6	42.4
Raimah	78.3	21.7

Source: DPPR p88

## Government policy

Yemen's 2002 National Basic Education Development Strategy serves as a framework to achieve a gross enrolment rate of 90% in 2010 and 95% in 2015, and reduce the gender gap to 11% by 2010. An important step towards gender mainstreaming in policy formation was the creation in 2005 of a girls' education sector, which is headed by a deputy minister. Another important policy step, in 2006, was abolishing fees for girls in grades one to six and boys in grades three to six; in 2008, this measure was extended to cover grades one to nine for girls and grades one to six for boys.

In 2007, the Government approved the National General Secondary Education Strategy, which focuses on reducing gender disparity and regional disparity in terms of access and completion, and institutional capacity building. The strategy also addresses the role of the private sector as a provider at all stages beyond basic education level.

The NSWD calls on the government to halve gender disparity in access to education at all levels and, similarly, to halve the current rate of girls' drop-out. In order to achieve these goals, the NSWD suggests:

- doubling the number of female teachers, encouraging female graduates to teach in rural areas and providing accommodation for female teachers in rural areas
- increasing women's participation in decision-making positions within the education sector to a minimum of 15%
- updating the curriculum, removing gender stereotypes from the curriculum and facilitating girls' enrollment in science and technology
- building more schools and upgrading existing facilities, for example girls' bathrooms
- encouraging community awareness, providing financial incentives for parents to send their daughters to school and improving rural roads to facilitate girls' mobility
- allocating sufficient resources to implement education reforms and enhancing the role of the Girl's Education Sector in the Ministry of Education.

A 2007 UNICEF policy paper, *Accelerating Girl's Education In Yemen: Rethinking Policies in Teachers' Recruitment and School Distribution*, noted the strong causal link between recruitment of female teachers and girls' enrolment and retention. It recommended specific regional targets for female teachers' recruitment. It also called for an acceleration in the construction of only-girls schools, and suggested double-shift schooling to maximize potential for only-girls schooling or residential girls' schools for higher grades.

Pilot projects run by Yemen's SFD suggest that improving girls' enrolment and completion rates in primary and secondary education requires an integrated, community-based approach. The SFD has found that success depends on encouraging community stakeholders – teachers, administrators, parents and students – to become active partners. Community participation leads to improved cooperation between the school and the local society, and creates the perception of education as a shared responsibility between the community and the Ministry of Education, with the family as the driving force.

Similarly, JICA found that active community participation, increased female teacher recruitment and improved regional educational administration helped to change perceptions towards girls education during a four-year project in Taiz Governorate.

The World Bank notes that Yemen has achieved some improvements in basic education, through conditional cash transfers to female pupils in grades four to nine, and in female teacher contracting.

### **Technical Education and Vocational Training**

The number of technical education and vocational training centres in Yemen rose from 26 to 55 during the period 2000-2005, and total enrolments more than trebled, from 6,567 to 20,209 students during the same period. This mirrors a growing belief among policymakers that TEVT can play a vital role in structural economic change.

However, TEVT centres in Yemen have weak links with the business and trade sector, the labour market information system is not well developed, and the qualification levels and motivation of the teachers and trainers are low. In addition, women students are under-represented.

The DPPR aims to increase the number of TEVT centres to 145 by the year 2010 and the NSWD calls for girls' enrolment in vocational and technical education to rise to 20%. (See also 3.4.)

## Tertiary education

Public universities are concentrated in the capitals of the major governorates - Sana'a, Aden, Taiz, Al-Hodiedah, Dhamar, Ibb and Hadhramout. The female gross enrolment ratio is five per cent. The number of female students increased by five per cent between 1999 and 2006; the number of female teachers increased by 15%.

### *Tertiary education statistics*

	1999	2006
Gross enrolment ratio - total	10%	9%
Gross enrolment ratio - male	16%	14%
Gross enrolment ratio - female	4%	5%
Gross enrolment ratio – gender parity index (F/M)	0.28	0.37
Percentage of female students	21%	26%
Percentage of female teaching staff	1%	16%

Source: EFA Global Monitoring Report 2009

## Literacy education

Youth literacy (15-24 years) stands at 93% for men and 67% for women. Adult literacy is lower - at 59% - with a clear gender gap of 40% literacy among women and 77% among men. The gender gap in adult literacy is compounded by disparities between urban and rural areas, with women's rural literacy running as low as 24%.

Yemen's adult literacy rate is projected to reach 70% by 2015. Women will constitute an estimated 75% of adult illiterates and 87% of youth illiterates.

### *Projected literacy rates (2015)*

	Total	Male	Female
Projected adult literacy rate (over 15)	70%	85%	55%
Projected adult illiterates	-	-	75%
Projected youth literacy rate (15-24)	90%	97%	83%
Projected youth illiterates	-	-	87%

Source: EFA Global Monitoring Report 2009

Yemen's SFD has developed several innovative approaches to women's literacy, by drawing on Yemen's oral tradition to develop effective learning and teach literacy through creating and sharing poetry. The SFD also supports community education classes for female students, aged 9–15, who missed or do not have the opportunity to attend formal schools and are not old enough to be part of the groups targeted by adult literacy classes.

## 3-2 Health

### Health

- 1) Government spending on infrastructure investment has increased the number of health facilities in recent years but access to basic health care in some rural areas is low as 20%.
- 2) Yemen made strong early gains in reducing the rates of infant mortality and under-five mortality but the trend has slowed in recent years.
- 3) 53% of children under five suffer from moderate and severe stunting – the second worst rate in the world, and more than double the median average in the Arab states.
- 4) Maternal mortality is the leading cause of deaths among women of reproductive age and a third of mothers who die are less than 25 years old.

### Government policy

Yemen currently allocates 1.9% of GDP - or 4% of central government expenditure - to public health expenditure. The Ministry of Health has overseen a significant increase in the construction of new facilities in recent years: between 2000 and 2005, the number of hospitals grew from 121 to 178, and maternity and childhood centres grew by 90% from 241 to 460. There was a parallel increase in health service professionals: the number of doctors per 10,000 people rose from 1.7 in 2000 to 5.6 in 2004, and the number of nurses rose from 4.4 to 5.0. However, only 58% of the population has access to basic health services, with wide disparities between urban (80%) and rural (20%) areas.

YSV 2025 aims to increase health service coverage to about 90% by 2025, with a focus on primary health care, reproductive health, immunization and raising health awareness. The DPPR's interim goals include expansion of basic health services to cover 67% of the population by 2010. The DPPR also provides for structural reforms in the health sector.

### Maternal and infant mortality rates

The maternal mortality rate reported by the Yemeni authorities during 2000-2007 was 370 per 100,000 live births; the adjusted estimate for 2005 was 430. Maternal mortality is the leading cause of deaths among women of reproductive age, accounting for more than a third of all deaths – with the vast majority of deaths occurring during delivery and the postpartum period. A third of women who die are less than 25 years old. Three-quarters of births occur at home and two-thirds of births take place without a skilled attendant. Yemeni women face a lifetime risk of maternal death that is nearly four times higher than the MENA average.



### *Lifetime risk of maternal death*

Average – sub-Saharan Africa	1 in 22
Average – least developed countries	1 in 24
Average – Eastern & Southern Africa	1 in 29
Yemen	1 in 39
Average - developing countries	1 in 76
Average – world	1 in 92
Average – Middle East & North Africa	1 in 140

Source: UNICEF State of the World's Children 2008

Yemen has made strong early gains in reducing under-five and infant mortality rates. In 1990, infant mortality rate was 90 per 1,000 live births; the current figure is 55 per 1,000 live births. In 1990, under-five mortality was 127 per 1,000 live births; the current figure is 73 per 1,000 live births. However, trends have slowed in recent years.

The DPPR aims to reduce infant mortality and under-five mortality by 50% by 2010.

53% of children under five suffer from moderate and severe stunting – the second worst rate in the world, joint with Burundi and out ranked only by Afghanistan at 54% - more than double the median average in the Arab states.

### *Children under five suffering from moderate and severe stunting (2000-2006)*

Afghanistan	54%
Yemen	53%
Burundi	53%
Average – sub-Saharan Africa	38%
Average – developing countries	32%
Average – world	31%
Average – Arab states	25%
Average – East Asia & Pacific	16%

Source: UNICEF State of the World's Children 2008

### **Female genital mutilation**

The Ministry of Public Health prohibits female genital mutilation (FGM) in official health centers. The WNC and the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Guidance have published a manual for religious leaders on women's health issues, including the negative health consequences of FGM. UNICEF estimates that 23% of Yemeni girls and women aged 15–49 nationally have been mutilated or cut.

According to a 2001 US State Department report, 97% of girls in Yemen who had undergone FGM were circumcised during the first month of life. Infection was cited as a common

complication due to the unhygienic conditions in which the operation was performed. However, mothers reported no complications for 89% of daughters who underwent circumcision. Thirty-five per cent of respondents who had completed secondary education, or higher, reported that they had been circumcised or cut – revealing a higher prevalence of FGM among educated women than the national average.

However, FGM is prevalent in the coastal areas, where Yemeni women's groups have reported rates as high as 90 percent.

### **Family Planning**

Yemen's rate of contraceptive prevalence is among the lowest in the world. The prevalence rate of 28% is marginally lower than the average for LDCs, and half the average prevalence rate for MENA. The UNFPA notes that just over half of couples who use contraception are relying on modern methods. Yemen's DPPR aims to increase the use of family planning methods to 35% and reduce the annual population growth rate to 2.75% by 2010.

### **HIV/AIDS**

Yemen is epidemiologically classified as a country with 'gradual growing accumulations of HIV infections and at least some high-risk groups identified'. The higher estimate of Yemen's HIV adult prevalence rate is 0.2% but the World Health Organization (WHO) suggests that a hidden epidemic is developing in Yemen, where for every known HIV case, at least 15 others lie undetected. In addition, the gender gap has closed. In 1995, the gender ratio of HIV-infected men to women was 4:1, in 1999 it was 2:1 and in 2000, it reached 1:1. Refugees from the Horn of Africa, Gulf nationals coming to Yemen to take advantage of the low-price sex trade and the weakening of Yemen's traditional social order – particularly in urban areas – increase the transmission risk. Lack of public awareness and the lack of a surveillance system also increase the risk that future rates will rise.

### 3-3 Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

#### Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries

- 1) Three quarters of the population live in rural areas, in small, scattered settlements. Food insecurity, high rates of rural poverty and long distances to schools and hospitals compound the gender gap in service access for women in rural areas.
- 2) The vast majority of women workers are employed in agricultural sector, but productivity and incomes are extremely low. Many women work unpaid, as family labour, but in some regions women are hired as day labourers in family work gangs.
- 3) Yemen's laws allow for women to own and inherit property, but women are systemically deprived of their inheritance rights. Yemeni women are usually excluded from decision-making about household income.

#### **Rural poverty and the gender gap**

Three quarters of the population live in rural areas, in small, scattered settlements of less than 5,000 people. The prevalence of scattered settlements poses a substantial challenge to service delivery and the remote nature of many settlements increases the obstacles for service users.

Poor rural roads and long distances between settlements and service facilities compound the gender gap, because cultural practices in remote areas – including attitudes towards girls' education and women's freedom of movement - are often highly conservative. Women in rural communities are more likely to be subject to traditional, tribal justice and unlikely to have access to the formal national law of the state. Early marriage is widespread.

Poverty is prevalent in the rural areas. Rural poverty poses a substantial obstacle for prospective service users, as the cost of travel, treatment, medicines and school fees can be prohibitive. These act as a further deterrent for girls and women, as girls and women are less likely to generate income and are more likely to be excluded from decisions about the allocation of household income.

In addition, Yemen is the most food-insecure country in the Middle East. It is heavily dependent on food imports, making its citizens especially vulnerable to global price shocks. More than a third of the population - seven million people - are undernourished, according to the United Nation's World Food Programme and the global hunger index rating is 'alarming'. Rising food prices during 2007 and 2008 reduced the real income of the poorest 20% of households by 12%, and aggravated conditions for the landless and small, marginal farmers.

## **Rural Policy and Gender**

Yemen's DPPR aims to prioritise labour-intensive rural investment projects and programs in all economic sectors, especially infrastructure and agriculture. The DPPR also pledges to support ongoing decentralisation efforts, and to promote the role of local authorities for rural development. This entails:

- capacity building and strategic support for local authorities in their efforts to improve economic and social infrastructure in the rural areas
- completing the legislative and institutional structure of the local authorities
- emphasizing the training, planning and supervisory aspects of the local authorities
- preparing an enabling environment for the developmental role of local authorities
- addressing population dispersal and encouraging settlement in secondary cities
- narrowing gender disparities in education, health and inheritance and property rights
- addressing the depletion of water resources.

The complex, cross-cutting, mutually reinforcing nature of Yemen's rural development challenges require targeted, integrated intervention. The SFD's Integrated Interventions Program is a multi-sector initiative aimed at mobilizing communities to identify their economic and social potential, enhance their capabilities and empower community-driven initiatives in the country's poorest areas. The project tackles education, health, literacy, community contracting, rainwater harvesting and training programmes.

The construction and improvement of rural roads will play a crucial role in facilitating access to markets and improving service delivery for rural communities. Yemen's SFD built and rehabilitated nearly 400 kilometers of rural roads during 2007.

### **Agriculture and extension activities**

Agriculture, the predominant sector in the Yemeni labor force, employs more than 80% of female and 70% of men workers. Productivity, wages and incomes in the agricultural sector are extremely low. Women raise goats and sheep, plant cereal crops, spin wool, weave textiles, fetch water, find fire-wood and make cheese, yoghurt and butter.

The great majority of agricultural work is done by women, but they are often excluded from decision-making about household income. Many women work unpaid, as family labour, but in some regions, such as Hadramaut and Tihama, a substantial percentage of work is performed by family work gangs. These women are hired as day labour, moving from field to field with a male supervisor, and they are paid in cash and/or a share of the crop to feed their livestock.

Yemen's CEDAW Committee states: "In view of the fact that rural women constitute the majority of women in Yemen, the Committee notes with concern that the traditional division of labour in agricultural production disadvantages women and that, for cultural and social reasons, women do not control the means of production and face difficulties in obtaining loans."

Gender segregation has traditionally made it difficult for women to gain access to agricultural extension, which is dominated by men - however, agricultural extension is very limited in Yemen.

### **Land Ownership**

Freedom House notes: "While no legal obstacles prevent women from having full use or ownership of their property, widespread illiteracy, patriarchal attitudes, and women's ignorance of their economic rights have produced a situation in which a majority of women hand over the administration of their possessions and property to their husbands or brothers. Most women, especially in rural areas, do not know about their property and inheritance rights, nor do they know how to gain access to them or use them."

Yemen's inheritance laws follow the country's interpretation of Islam, providing for a daughter or a wife to receive half the share inherited by a son or a husband. However, in rural areas, women are systemically deprived of their full inheritance to the extent that women's ownership of land is an aberration. If a woman is married to a man from another tribe, she will often be prevented from inheriting land in order to maintain the original tribal ownership of the land and the homogeneity of landownership of the area. Many rural fathers forbid their daughters to marry anyone outside the family in order to protect their properties from being transferred to another family.

### **Water**

Although highly dependent on agriculture as a source of income and employment, Yemen is one of the most water-scarce countries in the world. Ninety per cent of Yemen's rapidly depleting ground water reserves are currently used for agriculture and the majority goes to irrigate high-value *qat* crops – a mildly narcotic leaf, grown in the northern highlands and chewed for pleasure. Irrigation is highly inefficient and water resources management is poor.

Landowners are supposed to obtain a permit to drill new wells from the National Water Resources Authority but the sector is poorly regulated. Similarly, the outcome of the National

Water Sector Strategy and Investment Program has been mixed due to inadequate resources and implementation. The DPPR aims for improved water resource management, improved irrigation techniques and improved efficiency of water use.

Yemen is the first country in the Middle East to launch a national campaign on water conservation. The National Water Resources Authority has developed a husband-and-wife mascot team to encourage water conservation. Rowyan is an animated raindrop, a cartoon character with moustache and headdress. His wife, Rowyana, has carries a handbag and wears a veil and full-length black robes. The Arabic expression *rowyan* – and *rowyana* – means ‘I’ve had enough water’ and the message is simply to make more efficient use of every drop. The campaign is designed to appeal in a country with low literacy rates.

### 3-4 Economic Activities

#### Economic Activities

- 1) Traditional cultural attitudes inhibit women's economic participation in Yemen, and most working women are employed informally. Only 8% of working women are paid for their labour.
- 2) Yemen ranks last on economic participation and opportunity in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index, and comes second last on political empowerment. There is one woman member of parliament and two cabinet ministers.

#### Working Situation for Women

The right to work is recognized as a basic entitlement of all citizens, irrespective of gender, but traditional cultural attitudes inhibit women's economic participation in Yemen. Women represent just over a quarter of the workforce but the great majority (88%) works in the agricultural sector, and most are employed informally or involved in non-wage work. Only 8% of working women are paid for their labour. The average income of households headed by women is less by third than the average income of households headed by a man. The ratio of female-to-male estimated earned income is 0.30 (\$424 to \$1,422).

Yemen's total employment-to-population ratio is 47% but the employment-to-population ratio for women is 26%. Women's economic activity constitutes 39% of the male rate, while women's unemployment is 66% of the male rate. Three per cent of women work in industry and 9% in services, but only 7% of women are engaged in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector.

#### *Employment statistics*

Women's employment to population ratio	26%
Female economic activity – of total workforce	30%
Female economic activity – of male rate	39%
Female unemployment – of male rate	66%
Ratio of estimated female-to-male earned income	0.30
Women in paid labour	8%
Women in paid labour in non-agricultural sector	7%

Source: UN Human Development Report 2008; UN MDG indicators

The Labor Law of 1995 provides safeguards prohibiting discrimination against women in the

workforce, but in practice such discrimination is common, and preference in hiring goes to men. A small, urban elite is making visible progress in the labour markets in Sana'a and Aden, often employed by international organizations, CSOs and the private sector. Among them are members of a tiny minority of women in Yemen who choose to go unveiled. They are often university-educated but they have very few role models to follow in public life.

The socially preferred professions for women are teaching and medicine, yet women's involvement and participation in both sectors are still low in comparison to men, and the number of women in decision-making positions is small. Female participation in the government and public sector is minimal. Women account for less than less than 10% of civil servants.

There is one woman member of parliament and two cabinet ministers. During 2008, in an effort to broaden female political participation, the Government floated plans for a 15% quota for women in Parliament, but the proposal was condemned by an influential panel of tribal leaders and Islamic clerics. In 2009, scheduled parliamentary elections were postponed for two years. They are now scheduled for 2011.

Yemen ranks last on economic participation and opportunity in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index, and comes second last on political empowerment, behind Saudi Arabia.

### **Government policy**

The DPPR aims to increase the rate of women's involvement in economic activities at an average annual rate of 5% til 2010, and raise the participation of women workers in education and health by an annual rate of 8% each. Women's participation in the civil service, police and security work, and diplomatic work will be raised by an average growth rate of 5% each. The strategy for achieving these goals will include facilitation of women's access to financial services and soft loans, empowering women to access land, and involving women in the boards of chambers of commerce and industry. The private sector will be encouraged to employ women, remove gender disparities in wages and apply equality in rights.

The NSWD calls on the government to adopt awareness programmes and media activities to change the stereotype of women's roles at work and in decision making.

In early 2009, a new law was passed establishing the right of maternity leave for women employed in the public and private sectors.



There are no laws to protect women from sexual harassment in the workplace.

### **Microfinance**

Typical female clients are running small-scale, home-based enterprises. They are married and working part-time to generate additional family income. They are mostly confined to traditional work, such as sewing and incense manufacturing, buying and selling clothes, perfume, hairdressing, animal husbandry and handicrafts. Those running larger-scale businesses are the exception and are located, for the most part, in Sana'a.

Microfinance initiatives have made substantial progress in Yemen during recent years, but remain small scale. The percentage of women receiving loans has increased dramatically – for example, in 2007, women received 86% of loans under the SFD's microfinance program, compared with 34% in 2003. However, the low level of loans, especially at entry level, is perceived to be a barrier for many prospective women clients.

### 3-5 Migration

#### Migration

- 1) More than 50,000 Somali men, women and children claimed automatic refugee status in Yemen during 2008.
- 2) Increasing numbers of Ethiopians and Eritreans are seeking asylum in Yemen but, unlike Somalis, they face the risk of detention and deportation.
- 3) Ethiopian women are trafficked to Yemen by employment agencies who provide live-in domestic labour for middle-class Yemeni families in Sana'a.
- 4) Since 2004, thousands of men, women and children have been internally displaced by an erratic civil war in the northern province of Saada, fought between government security forces and an armed rebel group, known as the Houthis.

#### **Refugees and economic migrants from the Horn of Africa**

Since the outbreak of civil war in Somalia in 1991, Yemen has offered automatic refugee status to Somalis but, in recent years, migration from the Horn of Africa to the Arabian Peninsula has been rising. According to the UNHCR, more than 50,000 men, women and children made the grueling and dangerous sea journey across the Gulf of Aden during 2008; at least 590 people drowned and another 359 were reported missing. This represents a 70% increase in arrivals over the previous year's total of 29,500.

The UNHCR estimates there are more than 100,000 Somali refugees in Yemen, but not all Somalis register when they arrive and the government of Yemen claims the true figure could be three or four times higher.

Increasing numbers of Ethiopians and Eritreans are braving the sea crossing to Yemen but, unlike Somalis, they must apply for asylum when they arrive. In 2008, Yemen announced measures to prevent non-Somali migrants from illegally entering Yemen. The UNHCR expressed concern about dozens of Ethiopians detained by the authorities, including women and children.

In addition, Ethiopian women are flying direct to Sana'a from Addis Ababa to work as domestic labour in Yemen. Some work as freelancers, negotiating their own terms and conditions when they arrive but many are recruited by traffickers in rural areas of Ethiopia. An agent will arrange their flight and place them with a Yemeni family, who pays for the plane ticket, the visa and the agency's services. These contract workers are most likely

to experience persecution because they lack any control over their circumstances. The Yemeni authorities have stripped two Sana'a-based employment agencies of their licenses after repeated complaints of withholding passports, beatings and rape, but the agencies are reportedly still operating illegally.

### **IDPs in Saada province**

Since 2004, thousands of civilians have been internally displaced by an erratic civil war in the northern province of Saada, fought between government security forces and an armed rebel group, known as the Houthis. In July 2008, up to 20,000 IDPs (of whom about 80 percent were women and children) were living in seven camps managed by the Yemeni Red Crescent, in and around Saada town, the capital of Saada governorate. An estimated 40,000 IDPs were also living with relatives or friends in Saada town.

In July 2008, the conflict was declared over but, in October 2008, Human Rights Watch noted that large numbers of people still remained out of the reach of humanitarian agencies. Human Rights Watch estimates up to 130,000 people have been displaced by the fighting.

#### 4. On-going Gender Projects

Project Program	Implementing Organization	Donor Organization	Duration	Budget	Relative to Gender
Women / General					
Strengthening the Yemen Women's Union	CARE	Netherlands government	30 months	US\$1.6m	Supports the service delivery of the main gender para-statal in Yemen
Integrated Action Against Poverty and Early Marriage	Oxfam, with national partners	DANIDA	2005 - 2008	1,289,950 Euro	Campaign on EM and Women Economic Empowerment (micro-credit and employment)
Legal Protection and Advocacy Project	Oxfam, with Yemeni Women's Union	Oxfam GB and UNFPA	2004 - ongoing		To ensure the legal system protects the rights of vulnerable women in Yemen, to raise women's awareness of their legal rights, to lobby for the provision of free legal services for poor women by the state.
Good Governance Project	Oxfam, with 13 CSO networks and one government institution	Netherlands Cooperation	2007 - ongoing		Addresses implementation and monitoring of the DPPR & gender mainstreaming by looking at the disjuncture between policy commitments and their enforcement, limited accountability mechanisms and lack of capacity in the government and CSOs
Social Care House, Aden	Social Care House Aden (Board of Directresses) and the Arab Foundation for the Support of Women and Juveniles (AFSWJ)	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH	01/2004 – 12/2010	Ca. 600.000 €	The Social Care House helps female former prisoners and victims of violence to build an existence outside prison and to ensure re-integration into society.
Gender Budgeting (good governance project)	WNC and Ministry of Finance	Oxfam-GB	3 years 2009-2011	\$95,000	Allocate resources for women programs and projects in the national five-year plan
Gender increased national & local support for women	WNC	UNFPA	Ongoing (for 2009) with no limit time	\$66,383	Gender equality and the human rights of women and adolescent girls, particularly their reproductive rights, integrated in national policies, development frameworks and laws
CEDAW Committee Recommendation Plan	WNC and others	UNICEF	2008-2010	\$13,000	To advocate for the recommendations of the CEDAW Committee on the 6 <sup>th</sup> national report
Women and political Participation	WNC	British Embassy	Ongoing (for the first quarter of 2009)	\$29,500	Advocacy for applying the quota system to increase the involvement of women

					in the political arena
Policy analysis from gender perspective	WNC	OXFAM-Novak	Ongoing (for the first quarter of 2009 )	\$5,200	Develop a manual of policy analysis from gender perspective
Capacity Building	WNC	Government	Yearly since 2007	25.000US\$	Capacity building of WNCs' staff, directorates of women, WNCs' branches and members of local councils in integrating gender in planning
Gender Monitoring & Evaluation	WNC	Government	Yearly since 2007	7.500US\$	Developing a manual on Gender M&E and build capacity on relevant officials
Gender Budgeting	WNC	Government	Yearly since 2007	10.000US\$	Train participants of relevant authorities in GB and prepared a manual
<b>Education</b>					
Power to Lead	CARE/Min of Youth/YLDF	USAID Washington	36 months	US\$480,000	Create and sustain leadership and out-of-school activities for rural girls/young women
Improved Access to Quality Education	CARE/Min of Ed	Dubai Cares	48 months	US\$19.7m	Enable an additional 36,000 village children to access primary education – with particular support to girls and female teachers
Women' literacy in Abyan	CARE/Min of Ed	CARE Australia	12 months	AU\$90,000	Facilitates extension of adult literacy programmes for village women
Youth programming	Save the Children + local partners	USAID	2 years	2.5 million	Youth empowerment programs – often focus on girls
Inclusive Education- Lahej, Aden, Abyan	Save the Children	Dubai Cares	4.5 years	4 million \$	Inclusion of excluded children into school – often focus on girls
<b>Health / Medicine</b>					
Health Care, Hadramout	Oxfam		2003 - ongoing		Training women as health providers, strengthening the role of local communities in supporting health care programmes, equipping health facilities and providing drugs
<b>Migration</b>					
Refugee Program – Lahej, Aden, Sanaa'	Save the Children	UNHCR/BPR M	1 year (multiple years)	1 million \$	Inclusion of refugee children in the utilisation of basic services – often focus on girls
<b>Economic Activities</b>					
Management of basic Services in Al Mahweet	CARE	Private Dutch Foundation	5 months	US\$91,000	Supports local women's associations to take on management and maintenance of new electricity and water supplies

## 5 Gender Information Sources

### 5-1 List of Organizations/individuals related to Gender

Name of Organization	Contact Person (Area of specialization)	Results (Project Content Year Related Organizations, Experience in Social & Gender Analysis	Reports / Writers (Published Year etc.)	Contact Address Tele/Fax/E.Mail
Individual who prepared the Profile				
	Ginny Hill	Journalist specialising in Yemen & the Horn of Africa		<a href="mailto:ginny.uk@gmail.com">ginny.uk@gmail.com</a>
Government Organization				
Women's Union	Ramzia al-Eryani chairwoman			T: +967 01480489 T: +967 733252048 <a href="mailto:raleryani@yahoo.com">raleryani@yahoo.com</a>
Women's National Committee	Huria Mashhoor vice chair			00967 733 21 48 77 <a href="mailto:hooriamash@yahoo.com">hooriamash@yahoo.com</a> <a href="mailto:wnc@y.net.ye">wnc@y.net.ye</a>
International Organisation				
UNICEF	Buthaina Al-Iryani HIV & Youth Specialist			T: +967-1-211400(ext. 168) M: +967-777309492; +967-711829518 <a href="mailto:baliryani@unicef.org">baliryani@unicef.org</a>
UNFPA	Sawsan Al Refai Gender National Program Officer			T: +967 1 209004 (X: 123) M: +967 712224545 <a href="mailto:al-refai@unfpa.org">al-refai@unfpa.org</a>
World Bank	Samra Shaibani Senior Communication Officer	The World Bank does not have a specific gender strategy but is preparing a new country assistance strategy for Yemen		T: + 9671421623-8 (X:242) M: +967 733222651 <a href="mailto:sshaibani@worldbank.org">sshaibani@worldbank.org</a>
NGOs				
INGO Forum	Marius Posthumus, chair of the INGO Forum			+967 1 217700 (t) +967 1 400217 (f) <a href="http://www.ics-yemen.org">www.ics-yemen.org</a>
Save the Children	Andrew Moore country director	Gender issues are integrated into all of our projects – none of them targets gender directly		T: +967 1 217904 F: +967 1 217904 M: +967 711882025 E: <a href="mailto:amoore@scsmena.org">amoore@scsmena.org</a>
Marie Stopes International	Fran Roots country director	Gender issues are integrated into all of our projects – none of them targets gender directly		T: +967 1 417577 <a href="mailto:msfran@y.net.ye">msfran@y.net.ye</a>
CARE	Natalia Tapies ACD Programmes			<a href="mailto:natalia.tapies@careyemen.org">natalia.tapies@careyemen.org</a>
Human Rights Watch	Nadya Khalife MENA Researcher, Women's Rights			T: 961-1-999-811 F: 961-1-999-822 <a href="mailto:khalin@hrw.org">khalin@hrw.org</a>
Oxfam	Nicole Mitchell Campaigns and Policy Coordinator			T: + 967 1 444 568/9 F: + 967 1 445 650 M: + 967 734 982 999
United for the Improvement of Domestic Work	Kirubel Belete Lemma	UNIDOM offers, support and advice to foreign domestic workers.		<a href="mailto:unidom.yemen@gmail.com">unidom.yemen@gmail.com</a>
Youth Leadership Development Center	Salam Alshehri Young Women Leadership			Tel: +(967-1) 471-677 Fax: +(967-1) 471-688 <a href="mailto:salshehri@yldf.org">salshehri@yldf.org</a>

Name of Organization	Contact Person (Area of specialization)	Results (Project Content Year Related Organizations, Experience in Social & Gender Analysis	Reports / Writers (Published Year etc.)	Contact Address Tele/Fax/E.Mail
<b>Consultants</b>				
	Mary Jennings Nora Pistor	SFD, microfinance Gender GBV, FGM		<a href="mailto:mjennings@eircom.net">mjennings@eircom.net</a> <a href="mailto:norapistor@yahoo.de">norapistor@yahoo.de</a>

## 5-2 List of reports and references related Gender

Title	Publisher	Year	Where to get
<b>Education and Training</b>			
Accelerating Girl's Education In Yemen	United Nation's Children's Fund (UNICEF)	2007	<a href="http://www.ungei.org">www.ungei.org</a>
Support Program for Broadening Regional Initiative for Developing Girls' Education	Japan International Cooperation Agency	2008	<a href="http://www.jica.go.jp/english/">www.jica.go.jp/english/</a>
<b>Health and Medicine</b>			
The State of the World's Children: Maternal and Newborn Health	United Nation's Children's Fund (UNICEF)	2009	<a href="http://www.unicef.org">www.unicef.org</a>
Report on the global AIDS epidemic	UNAIDS	2008	<a href="http://www.unaids.org">www.unaids.org</a>
HIV and development challenges in Yemen: which grows fastest?	Health Policy and Planning	2006	<a href="http://heapol.oxfordjournals.org">heapol.oxfordjournals.org</a>
<b>Yemen FGM/C country profile</b>	UNICEF	2005	<a href="http://www.childinfo.org">www.childinfo.org</a>
Reproductive health care for Somali refugees in Yemen by Fowzia H Jaffer, Samantha Guy and Jane Niewczasinski	Forced Migration Review	2004	<a href="http://www.fmreview.org">www.fmreview.org</a>
Yemen: Report on Female Genital Mutilation or Female Genital Cutting	US State Department	2001	<a href="http://www.unhcr.org/refworld">http://www.unhcr.org/refworld</a>
<b>Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries</b>			
Rural Development Strategy	MPIC	2003	<a href="http://www.mpic-yemen.org/new1/mpic.asp">www.mpic-yemen.org/new1/mpic.asp</a>
<b>Economic Activities</b>			
Yemen Economic Update	World Bank	quarterly	<a href="http://web.worldbank.org">web.worldbank.org</a>
Microfinance Gender Study: A Market Study of Women Entrepreneurs in Yemen	Deena Burjorjee, Mary Jennings for Social Fund for Development	2008	<a href="http://www.sfd-yemen.org">www.sfd-yemen.org</a>
Women in Local Economic Development - Aden	World Bank	2005	<a href="http://www.worldbank.org">www.worldbank.org</a>
Gender and Development in the Middle East and North Africa: Women in the Public Sphere	World Bank	2004	<a href="http://www.worldbank.org">www.worldbank.org</a>
<b>Social/Gender Analysis</b>			
Campaign on early marriage in Yemen	WNC/Oxfam	2009	<a href="http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/">www.un.org/esa/socdev/</a>
The Global Gender Gap Report	World Economic Forum	2008	<a href="http://www.weforum.org">www.weforum.org</a>
There must be violence against women	Maged Thabet Al-Kholidy, Yemen Times Issue 1117	2008	<a href="http://www.yementimes.com">www.yementimes.com</a>
Gender-Based Sexual Violence Against Teenage Girls in the Middle East	Save the Children	2007	<a href="http://www.scsmena.org">www.scsmena.org</a>
Youth Bulge Issues in Yemen and the MENA Region	Mary Jennings, Seema Khan for	2007	<a href="http://www.gsrdc.org">www.gsrdc.org</a>



	Governance and Social Development Resource Centre		
National Strategy for Women's Development 2006-2015	Women National Committee		<a href="http://www.yemen-women.org">www.yemen-women.org</a>
Women's Rights in the Middle East and North Africa: Citizenship and Justice	Freedom House	2005	<a href="http://www.freedomhouse.org">www.freedomhouse.org</a>
<b>Migration</b>			
Invisible Civilians: The Challenge of Humanitarian Access in Yemen's Forgotten War	Human Rights Watch	2008	<a href="http://www.hrw.org">www.hrw.org</a>
No Choice: Somali and Ethiopian Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants Crossing the Gulf of Aden	Medecins sans Frontieres	2008	<a href="http://www.msf.org.uk">www.msf.org.uk</a>
Ethiopian women increasingly trafficked to Yemen by Marina de Regt	Forced Migration Review	2006	<a href="http://www.fmreview.org">www.fmreview.org</a>
<b>Others</b>			
EFA Global Monitoring Report	UNESCO	2009	<a href="http://www.unesco.org/publishing">www.unesco.org/publishing</a>
Yemen-European Community Strategy Paper 2007-2013	European Commission		<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/">ec.europa.eu/external_relations/</a>
Human Rights Report	US State Dept	2008	<a href="http://www.state.gov">www.state.gov</a>
Global Integrity Index	Global Integrity	2008	<a href="http://report.globalintegrity.org">report.globalintegrity.org</a>
Freedom in the World	Freedom House	2008	<a href="http://www.freedomhouse.org">www.freedomhouse.org</a>
Socio-Economic Development Plan for Poverty Reduction 2006-2010	MPIC		<a href="http://www.mpic-yemen.org/new1/mpic.asp">www.mpic-yemen.org/new1/mpic.asp</a>
Human Development Report 2007-08	UNDP		<a href="http://hdr.undp.org/en/">hdr.undp.org/en/</a>
A Medium-Term Vision for SFD	Social Fund for Development	2007	<a href="http://www.sfd-yemen.org">www.sfd-yemen.org</a>
Annual Report	Social Fund for Development	2007	<a href="http://www.sfd-yemen.org">www.sfd-yemen.org</a>
Institutional Evaluation	Mary Jennings for Social Fund for Development	2006	<a href="http://www.sfd-yemen.org">www.sfd-yemen.org</a>
Common Country Assessment Yemen's Strategic Vision 2025	United Nations MPIC	2005	<a href="http://www.undg.org">www.undg.org</a> <a href="http://www.mpic-yemen.org/new1/mpic.asp">www.mpic-yemen.org/new1/mpic.asp</a>

## **7. Definitions**

### **Informal sector**

Part of economy consisting of small competitive individual or family firms listed in the labor indicators. According to the definition of ILO, those engaged in this sector have simple technology, insufficient amount of capital, unidentified business location, minimum number of employees (or none of them), lack of legality and registration, and no capability of bookkeeping.

### **National machinery**

Administrative organization to promote equal participation between men and women, and to implement and strengthen policies related to women, and to supplement organization for women.

### **Inflation rate**

Instead, GDP deflator is used.

### **Gini index**

Aggregate numerical measures of income inequality ranging from 0 to 100. A Gini index of zero represents perfect equality, while an index of 100 implies perfect inequality.

### **Percentage of Women's Income**

There are no appropriate data comparable to each country. UNDP works out that the women's income is 75% of men's in non-agricultural sector.

### **Total fertility rate**

Average number of children whom a woman delivers in all her life

### **Under-one mortality rate**

Annual number of infants who die among 1,000 newborn babies within 1 year after the birth

### **Under-five mortality rate**

Annual number of infants who die 1,000 newborn babies within 5 years after birth

### **Maternal mortality rate**

Annual number of mothers who die among 100,000 cases of delivery due to pregnancy

### **Percentage of births attended by trained health personnel**

The rate of births with the help of doctors, nurses, midwives, trained health personnel, or trained traditional midwives

### **Percentage of infants with low birth weight**

The rate of newborn children of which the birth weight is less than 2,500 grams

### **Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT) use rate**

The rate of using oral rehydrate salt or substitute solution for under- infants having diarrhea

### **Enrolment ratio of primary and secondary school**

Total enrolment ratio (or gross enrolment ratio) is the rate of pupils going to school with no respect to school age against population at the school age. Net enrolment ratio is the rate of pupils going to school at the school age against the people at the school age.