



Defending dignity.
Fighting poverty.



Yemen

Karina Coates/CARE



Country Snapshot

Population:	22.5 million
Life expectancy at birth:	62 years
Adult literacy rate:	59%
Access to improved water source:	66%
GDP per capita:	US\$2,335*
Infant mortality rate:	55 per 1,000 live births
Maternal mortality rate:	430 per 100,000 live births

Sources: UNICEF State of the World's Children Report 2009, *UNDP Human Development Report 2009

Program Overview CARE has been continuously active in Yemen since 1993, in program activities that work towards reducing poverty and promoting social justice. These have evolved from emergency relief efforts to long-term development initiatives. CARE's work in Yemen has a common focus on community self-help and women's empowerment, including women's literacy, water management, capacity building of local organizations, natural resource management, and relief assistance to refugees.

Women's Empowerment

Although the national constitution gives women and men the same rights, the situation of women in Yemen continues to be dominated by inequality of status and access to opportunities. There are great disparities between men and women when it comes to education and health care in particular. The marked lack of access for women to adequate reproductive healthcare contributes to maternal mortality rates that are the highest in the MENA region. Traditional roles are currently undergoing a slow but steady transition that will hopefully lead to more equal, stronger, and visible status for women in Yemeni society.

CARE is contributing to the empowerment of hundreds of rural women and girls by supporting the formation of women's associations. Profits from start-up village enterprises go to women in the association and assist them to start businesses, purchase livestock or run literacy classes. CARE is also building the skills and capacity of the Yemen Women's Union at national level to improve its support to local women across the country, strengthen financial and organizational management, and

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increase its potential to influence national policy affecting the lives of millions of Yemeni women.

Education

The main educational challenges in Yemen are a weak education system overall with limited reach, low levels of teacher training and qualification, gaps in enrollment between boys and girls, limited institutional capacity and low community participation. Only 72 percent of Yemen's school-age population is enrolled in primary school; enrolment is even lower for girls. CARE is currently implementing large-scale programs to improve the quality and relevance of education for primary age children, with special emphasis on the enrolment and retention of girls and developing their leadership skills.

Water Management

Yemen is an arid, water-scarce country where many rural communities do not have access to safe drinking water. Building on interventions with hundreds of poor villages CARE, through the national women's NGO SOUL, is currently supporting local women's associations at communities in Amran to improve management and practice in safe use and handling of drinking water.

Relief Assistance to Refugees

Yemen hosts more than 155,000 refugees, mainly from Somalia. Despite the harshness of the journey, refugees continue to cross the Gulf of Aden fleeing unrest in Somalia and economic hardship in Eastern Africa. In Yemen, many refugees suffer from difficult living conditions and lack of basic services, limited access to healthcare and poor housing.

CARE provides relief assistance to refugees; in 2009 CARE managed the construction of 100 new family shelters at Kharaz camp, provided 90 solar-powered units for public spaces at the camp to improve protection for females, built seven literacy classes with solar powered lighting and ceiling fans, constructed four additional public buildings in the camp, also with solar power and establish a major water network system.

While at the Basateen urban refugee settlement in nearby Aden CARE is currently implementing an integrated program on waste management, recycling, sanitation and hygiene promotion, improved access to water with seven villages neighboring the refugee camp is also being further developed by the CARE team with the overall aim of reducing conflict.

Marginalized Communities

Building on our early work with the most marginalized social group in Yemen, CARE has been just awarded three-year funding support to improve access to school for children, and to provide vocational training for marginalized youth in Sana'a.

Emergency Response

CARE continues to develop humanitarian response work with thousands of civilians displaced by the six year-long civil war in the north of the country. This has a specific focus on the provision and promotion of emergency water, sanitation and hygiene resources and undertaken in close partnership with local branches of the Yemen Women's Union.

Major Donors

Blue Planet Run Foundation, US Bureau for Population Refugees and Migration (BPRM), Dubai Cares, European Commission (EC), European Union (EU), Howard G. Buffet Foundation, Royal Netherlands Ministry of Development, United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), UK Government's Conflict Prevention Pool (CPP), CARE Australia and various others.

***CARE's work in Yemen
has a common focus on
community self-help and
women's empowerment.***

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