Yemen

Country Engagement Note and UNDP: Yemen Emergency Crisis Response Project

July 19, 2016

Chair Summary*


Directors observed that the prolonged conflict situation in Yemen has resulted in the forced displacement of Yemenis internally and beyond its borders, leading to the aggravation of an existing humanitarian crisis. Noting that the CEN and the emergency operation were prepared during this period of conflict, they appreciated the Bank's relentless commitment to continued engagement in a conflict-ridden environment, and welcomed the incorporation of lessons learned during the implementation of the previous Interim Strategy Note.

Directors commended the innovation and flexibility of using diverse interventions and implementation modalities, including community engagement and delivery through third parties, NGOs, and the UN agencies. Directors felt this approach would mitigate the risks of weak governance and security inherent in project implementation in fragile situations. They appreciated the innovative consultation tools used to enlist wider feedback on priorities, and the considerable flexibility in the CEN to enable the WBG and other partners to respond as needed and in a timely manner to emerging priorities in the aftermath of the crisis.

Directors endorsed the proposed analytical and advisory agenda to prepare for post conflict recovery and reconstruction. They called for the adoption of a two-tier approach involving top-down as well as bottom-up engagement with the authorities, building on a strong track record of the National Dialogue Conference, supporting voice and accountability, and working with strong local partners. Directors urged the Bank to continue to play a leading role in this process, and encouraged IFC to scale up its engagement and MIGA to explore opportunities to engage. Directors took note of the high overall risk rating and called for close monitoring during the CEN period to ensure good governance and that benefits reach the intended recipients in a fair and transparent manner.

Directors underscored the enormity of the challenge in Yemen and the importance of donor harmonization and coordination under a joint strategy. They urged the Bank to demonstrate its leadership and to play an active role in convening other partners to support the design and implementation of a strategy for recovery and reconstruction.
Summary of Discussion on Proposed Project

Executive Directors approved the proposed Grant to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) for a Yemen Emergency Crisis Response Project in the amount of SDR35.7 million (US$50 million equivalent), and a waiver to apply the World Bank and UN Fiduciary Principles Accord (FPA) to facilitate UNDP’s implementation of the project.

Directors welcomed the emergency support which, in full partnership with the UN agencies, provides short-term employment and access to basic services to the most vulnerable during conflict and preserves implementation capacity of two service delivery programs. Directors noted that the project would help to preserve critical local capacity to deliver community-based services across the country, increase Yemen’s resilience and help with implementation of future recovery efforts.

Finally, Directors welcomed the strong partnership between the Bank and the UN agencies on the ground which allows for such urgent and critical investments, and urged the Bank to continue to maintain and rely on such tested international partnerships.

*This summary is not an approved record.*