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Preface:

The Seventh National Report on the Implementation of Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women CEDAW comes within the periodical reports as provided for in the article (18) clause (b) of the Convention. It offers an opportunity to look back, assess and revise Yemen's obligation with respect to the implementation of the Convention, by identifying levels of performance and achievements in implementing its provisions and by reviewing the progress in women's issues and human rights that it is endeavoring to achieve, in addition to identifying shortfalls and challenges in this process.

Yemen's ratification to CEDAW as early as 1984 and to all other instruments concerned with women issues and human rights, including the Beijing Plan of Action, 1995, confirms the state's concern with women's empowerment and with the improvement of their status by providing the required legislatures and institutions, in addition to the policies, strategies, plans and national programs in this respect.

The Report will highlight the performance of the state and other entities in the past years, in addition to the assistances and aids provided by the donors and the allocation of resources following the Donors' Conference in 2006. It will further address allotments in the Public Investment Program that served and impacted women's' advancement within the implementation of the third Five Year Plan for Development and Poverty Alleviation and the National Strategy on Women's Development and other sectoral strategies relevant to women's issues.

The political environment in Yemen provides a atmosphere conducive to tackling women's issues in a coordinated manner following various measures either at the government level, including the Women's National Committee, or through the civil society organizations including Yemeni Women's Union, Sisters' Arab Forum for Human Rights, Girl’s Languages Center, Women Forum for Studies and Researches, Opinion Pulling Center, the Network on Combating Violence against Women (SHIMA). This is in addition to many other similar organizations that implement various activities to tackle women's issues, particularly political participation. Such numerous activities played a significant role in proposing reforms, conducting trainings and awareness, integrating CEDAW in the national and local (decentralized) action. Nonetheless, the outcomes of such actions remain insufficient and sometimes have a poor impact. Such slow pace and poor impact is attributed to the differences in the viewpoints and stands towards the process of transformation in light of the dominant social and cultural systems in the community, that at times negatively impact the decision-makers, stakeholders and public organizations that frame women within the context they already specified. This is evident by the gap between theory and practice with respect to the implementation of CEDAW, and the lack of coordination and cooperation of efforts and funding between all concerned state and non-state, regional and international institutions.

Furthermore, many internal and external factors have negatively impacted the implementation of CEDAW and recommendations attached to it. These factors include:

1- Acts of terrorism, and the renewed recurrence of armed confrontations in Sa'ada and its victims among who are women and children. This has left a devastating impact on development in general.

2- Some of the governorates (Hadramout, Al-Mahara, Shabwa and Hodaidah) were swept with floods in 2008. This natural disaster left behind victims including women and children.

3- The financial crisis also had its toll as seen in the rescheduling of resources that led to reduce allocations provided locally or by international donors for programs and projects that included women needs.

4- An influx of refugees which caused further pressure on Yemen's scarce resources and capacities.

5- The spread of corruption in the administration and judiciary systems.
6- The inadequate level of communication between political parties of multiple directions and visions over the elections which led to the postponement of the parliamentary elections for two years and extended the term of present MPs for a similar period. This was accompanied by public and political movements in the South demanding reforms that unfortunately did not include women's issues within its priorities, particularly the quota system.

The Report will address the periods from 2006 to May 2009 through three basic approaches that focus on the implementation of previous report recommendations, the accomplished parts of the Convention supported with data, information, examples and evidence for each of the four parts of CEDAW, and the challenges that impede its implementation.

The report, which was prepared substantively and realistically, indicates that there are opportunities for the development of women’s issues. However, sufficient space and serious options in dealing with them in good faith by all concerned is needed.

Finally, we would like to extend our sincere acknowledgement and appreciation to the representatives of all state and non-state actors, civil society organizations, and international organizations and institutions that provided reports, data and information which facilitated the preparation of this report. Special acknowledgement attributed to UNFPA, for funding the preparation of this report and to the teamwork that accomplished the task with great concern and within short period of time.

Rashida Al-Hamdani
Chairperson
Women's National Committee
Methodology of the Report:

- Forming the team:
  A technical team was formed within the National Committee for Women for the purposes of the preparation of the report, due to the short period of time allotted for its development, in addition to the lack of adequate financial resources to cover the expenses of members from outside the Committee. Most of the members of the team have received prior training regarding how to prepare such a report.

- Communicating with relevant parties:
  A - Government agencies such as: (the Presidency, the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, House of Representatives and the Shura Council, ministries and relevant bodies).

  B - The governorates: Communication with the branches of the National Committee for Women in the governorates. Hadhramout governorate was selected to prepare a comprehensive report for the implementation of the Convention on the governorate level. Request for data from the rest of the governorates has been incorporated in the context of the report.

  C - Civil society organizations working on women's issues and human rights: the organizations working on women's issues and human rights at both the central and local levels were communicated with for the purposes of collecting data.

  D - International organizations: The international organizations working in Yemen and in particular United Nations agencies were communicated with for the purposes of gathering information and obtaining their support to cover the costs of preparing the report.

- Collection and Analyzing of Reports, Data and Statistics:
  Requests to collect data required field visits to many of the actors at the central level. The branches of the WNC were relied on to collect data at the local level. The collection of data was limited, as most had not been classified by gender as well as its variation from one source to another. Some data was not updated because those who compiled it relied on surveys carried out from time to time, sometimes extending to five years.

- Collection of resolutions that comply to CEDAW provisions:
  The resolutions on enhancing women's status were collected that comply with CEDAW provisions.

- Decision-makers:
  The WNC held meetings with some decision makers to explain the significance of developing the report and facilitating the work of the teamwork in collecting data;

- CEDAW provisions:
  The preparation team committed itself to drafting and analyzing the data collected as per the provisions of the CEDAW, Beijing Platform Action Plan and the MDGs. The status quo was illustrated according to the level of implementation of the Convention.

- Organization of workshops:
  The WNC organized a workshop aimed at all stakeholders (representatives of governmental and civil society) to discuss the draft report and the enrichment of it.

- The Recommendations of the Convention’s Committee of Experts:
  The procedures relating to the recommendations of the Committee of Experts on the Convention on the sixth national report on the level of the implementation of the Convention as follows:

  • The Yemeni government has responded positively to the final remarks and recommendations set forth by the UN Commission on CEDAW, when discussing the Sixth National Report on the Implementation of CEDAW, which was disseminated to all relevant organizations. For example, the report was publicized in a press conference, a radio program on that topic, organized meetings with UN agencies, and the community
of donors in Yemen to explore areas of cooperation in the execution of these recommendations and remarks.

- A meeting to launch the recommendations was organized with UNDP, UNFPA, and UNHCR support. This meeting was held under the auspices of H.E. the Prime Minister, Chairman of the Supreme Council for Women and attended by a number of ministers.

- The WNC has worked in cooperation with the Minister of Social Affairs and Labor to include the recommendations within the cabinet work program to enact a resolution for their enforcement. Consequently, the cabinet has ordered the formation of a ministerial committee No. (5) for 2009, chaired by the Minister of Justice and comprised of ministers of Social Affairs and Labor, Endowment and Guidance and Human Rights, in addition to the Secretary-General of the Cabinet and the Chairperson of WNC. The committee was asked to review these recommendations to ensure their conformity to the Sharia doctrine, valid laws and to submit their outcomes. The Committee concluded to endorse these recommendations; accordingly the cabinet resolution No. 55 for 2009 was enacted to approve CEDAW recommendations. The resolution explicitly provided for:

  - Approval of the recommendations and the assignment of the concerned ministries and institutions to implement them;
  - Assignment of the Minister of Legal Affairs and the Minister of the Parliament and Shura Council Affairs for the follow-up enactment of the proposed legal amendments that the cabinet has approved and submitted to the parliament;
  - Assignment of the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation to coordinate with the UN agencies, and donors’ community to support the enforcement of CEDAW according to the recommendations.

- The WNC has also put in place the short and long term National Plan as a mechanism to execute these recommendations. With UNICEF and UNFPA support, the Plan was discussed in a workshop attended by state and non-state actors, and more workshops were organized at 8 governorates (Sana'a municipality, Aden, Hadhramout, Taiz, Ibb, Hodeidah, Mahweet, and Hajjah);

- All concerned parties have integrated the relevant recommendations in their sectoral plans for year 2009 within the availability of their budgets. The WNC will monitor implementation of these recommendations, measure achievements, and will report to the PM, Chairman of SCW. The national reports issued by the WNC will also include assessment to the implementation of these recommendations.
The constitution which is based on Sharia doctrine provides equal rights and duties for all citizens, whether male or female. It ensures rights and basic freedoms according to the Convention provisions to institute equal and balanced relations between all members of the community without discrimination.

Adopting of equality in the constitution is considered as a general rule from which laws enactment is emerged, and should be taken into account when organizing the rights and duties in details. However, the revision and inspection conducted by state actors such as (Women National Committee, Ministries of Social Affairs and Labor, Human Rights, Foreign Affairs, and the Supreme Council of Mothers and Children) and by some CSOs, have revealed loopholes and deficits in the form of legal discrimination against women in specific laws.

The government within the above context has pursued its efforts to enforce CEDAW provisions with respect to attaining equality in the national legislatures through the constitutional, legal and other means, in line with article (2) of the Convention. Therefore, a number of valid laws were reformed to conform to the Convention provisions, either through amending legal articles to eliminate discrimination against women, or by adding articles to these laws that guarantees women's rights in public life, and family life... etc, as seen in the Labor law, Social Insurance, and Diplomatic Corps.

### 1.1 Constitutional Amendments

Within the context of political reforms, the President of the Republic proposed on 13 July 2007, a number of constitutional amendments that included reforms to the local administration, legislatures, policies and budgets. Consequently, reforms and amendments were conducted in the public elections and referendum law, and local authority. None of these amendments addressed women political participation to include the quota system in line of the Presidents' initiative to allocate 15 percent for women in the parliament seats.

The proposed amendment on women in the constitution is as follows:

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<th>Proposed amendment</th>
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<td>Article (31): women are sisters of men, shall have the rights and duties provided ensured by the Sharia’ and stipulated in the law.</td>
<td>Article (31): women are the sisters of men, and thus they shall have the rights and duties provided ensured by the Sharia’ and stipulated in the law. The state institutions and the community shall support women, particularly in the representative bodies to ensure their contribution in community building and development.</td>
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These amendments were debated and discussed by all concerned parties including the Shura Council, CSOs, and political parties. WNC has submitted the above amendment proposal; however these amendments are still under consideration.

### 1.2 Laws Enacted during 2006 – 2009

- Law No. (5) of 1995 on Labor and amendments therein:
  Amendments to articles (45, 47) of the law to read as follows:
  **Article (45)**
  1. Pregnant working women shall have the right to fully paid maternity leave of seventy days.
  2. Working women shall not be subjected to any form of manual, extensive labor while on maternity leave;
  3. Working women shall be entitled to an additional twenty days to the maternity leave mentioned in clause (1), in either of the following cases:
     a. if she faces a difficult labor (delivery) as evidenced by a medical report;
     b. if she delivers twins.
  4. Working women shall never be dismissed while enjoying maternity leave.
Article (47) any employer who employs females shall display in a notable place the regulations on women’s labor and shall specify a location for women to pray and rest according to times provided for by the law.

Addition of two articles (47 repeated, 84 repeated) in the above law as follows:

Article (47 repeated): the employer shall take necessary precautions to protect pregnant employee from any hazardous material or any hazard that might damage her health or that of her fetus. The pregnant employee has the right of treatment and compensation, for instance protecting her from:

1. Hazardous equipment and other hazards such as radiation.
2. Hazardous vibrations and noises.
3. Any hazardous increase or decrease in atmospheric pressure.

Article (84 repeated): the male or female employee shall be entitled to one month paid marriage leave which shall not be deducted from the regular annual leave provided that this is the first marriage in his/her life.

- Law No. (14) of 2002 on the Civil Law:

Amendment to article (61), as follows:

"The maturity of competent youths, whether male or female, shall be tested by their parents or guardians by allowing these youths to run part of their property according to the variable conditions and circumstances. When that is not possible, these youths can be tested by other skills they are able to master, in accordance with their individual personalities”.

- Law No. (26) of 1991 on Social Insurance (for private sector employees):

Amendment to the identification of retirement age in article (2) to read:

"Retirement age: is the age at which the insured shall be entitled to compulsory retirement, when he/she reaches the age of 60 years, and optional retirement if he/she reaches the age of 55 years”.

Amendment to clause (1) of article (51) to read as follows:

Article (51, 1): the insured to reach the age of 60 years, provided that his/her subscription to the insurance shall not be less than 180 monthly subscriptions i.e. fifteen years.

Amendment to sub-clause (1) clause (a), of article (57) to read as follows:

Article (57): a. the Social Insurance Authority shall pay one lump sum of compensation if the insured subscription is one year or more, in the following instances:

1. Upon the resignation of the married or widowed insured, if she so requested, provided that payment is not made more than one time.

Addition of article (64 repeated) to the Law to read as follows:

Article (64 repeated): the husband or wife may receive both their pensions or the pension and salary, whereas the husband may not receive more than one wife’s pension and he may choose the pension of one wife only”.

Abatement of clause (4) article (76) of the Social Insurance Law for its contradiction to the above amended article (64 repeated). This abated text was: the insured woman deserves to have a pension of her husband in accordance with the provisions of this law. The establishment provides her with the higher pension plus the smaller half of the pension she deserves.


Amendment to article (20) to read as follows:

"The insured to reach the age of 60 years for males and optionally 55 years for females. Those who are subjected to this law provisions shall have completed 35 years of work”.

Addition of article (60 repeated): "the husband or wife may receive their both pensions or the pension and salary, whereas the husband may not receive more than one wife's pension and he may choose the pension of one wife only”.

- Law No. (2) of 1991 on the Diplomatic and Consulate Corps and its amendments:

Amendments to articles (82, 90) of the Law as follows:

Article (82): "members of the diplomatic corps shall be subjected to the provisions of general laws that are applied to all public servants when retired, or if their service is extended, to those who have reached one of the retirement conditions when such extension is needed for the interest of the work”.

Article (90): a. "the married couples employed at the ministry may be appointed at two different missions according to the conditions provided by the by-laws”.

b. the married couples may be appointed in the same mission with the minister's resolution and following the approval of the committee, if the professional talents of both members of the couple are needed in the same
mission, and at such instance only one of them shall enjoy the allowances and privileges provided for services abroad”.

c. appointment as per the abovementioned clauses shall not contradict with the appointments order of priority approved by the ministry”.

• Law No. (6) of 1990 on Yemeni Nationality:
Amendments to article (3) of the law as follows:
Article (3): Yemeni nationality shall be granted to:
a. Those who were born to a father or mother of Yemeni nationality;
b. Those who were born in Yemen to a mother that holds this nationality and to a father of unknown nationality or who is stateless;
c. Those who were born in Yemen to a mother that holds this nationality and who are of unknown paternity;
d. Those who were born in Yemen to unknown parents, and those who were found born in Yemen shall be considered as such unless otherwise proved;
e. The immigrant who used to hold Yemeni nationality when leaving the country and did not abandoned this nationality according to the law, and on the basis of explicit request from him even if he was granted the nationality of the country where he lives according to that country's laws.

1.3 A number of Laws were enacted during 2008/2009 pertaining to women's rights such as:

• Law No. (39) of 2006 on Anti-Corruption
This is the first law passed in Yemen and is the first law which specified a representative for women sector to the organization board as per the following: article (9) (a):
The organization consists of 11 members who have experience, integrity and efficiency. There will be representation of civil society organizations, the private sector and women.

• Law No. (39) of 2008 on Social Welfare, with the following objectives:
1. To ensure provision of social assistance to the vulnerable, impoverished and needy groups in the community, to alleviate their suffering and improve their living conditions.
2. To provide economic assistance to the needy who are able to work to achieve self-sufficiency, to train and integrate them in the labor market;
3. To curb the spread of poverty in the community and secure children's future by providing them with education and health care;
4. To provide social welfare to needy groups whose health, physical condition, and age does not allow them to achieve self-sufficiency.
5. To involve the beneficiaries from the Fund assistance in the training programs to provide them with technical and professional capacities and skills to enable them to work.
6. To assist individuals and families that are subjected to general or individual disasters and empower them to overcome the challenges resulted from such disasters.
The law contained the general restrictions and provisions that determine the deservedness of social and economic assistances, procedures to obtain it, the organizing mechanisms, payment of aids, and the financial system. It stipulated also the penalties that will be applicable when such provisions are breached.

• Law No. (4) of 2009 on Public Health:
The objectives and purposes of this law include:
- Provision of maternal and infant health care.
- Decrease the rate of mortalities therein to internationally accepted levels.
- Combating endemic diseases.
- Improving health and medical services.
- Regulating medicines; improving general living conditions.
- Improving the health insurance system.
- Environment protection.
- Combating malnutrition.
The fourth chapter of the Law is titled "Woman and Child Health".
Law No. (15) of 2009 on Microfinance Banks:
The purposes and objectives of this law include the provision of banking services to households, small farmers, small and micro enterprises in the rural and urban areas. It provides equal opportunities to all targeted groups, improves living conditions, and provides financing for the targeted groups through financial facilities for the poor in order to limit unemployment and poverty by focusing on impoverished sects to reach self-independence. The law includes work regulations, banking financial system, penalties and general provisions.

2.1 Law Reforms

There are a number of reform proposals to the laws which are under consideration to conform to the constitution provisions and the CEDAW to eliminate legal discrimination against women and establish legal ground that ensures women's human rights. A number of institutions proposed legal reforms as follows:

A - The WNC revised a number of national laws from a gender perspective and proposed legal amendments to some laws. These amendments have been approved by the Cabinet and are under consideration in the Parliament as per the following table:

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<th>Text Approved by the Cabinet</th>
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| 1   | Cabinet Resolution No. (146) of 2007 on the approval of the proposal to amend Law No. (15) of 2000 on Police Authority Amendment to article (158):  
   | a. Conducting interrogations with women detained at police stations.  
   | b. Inspection of women at places where specific precautions are taken such as airports and other venues in the Republic of Yemen;  
   | c. receiving of convicted women of penalties which deprive them of their freedoms en route to prisons;  
   | d. Guarding of female prisoners, supervising and monitoring their behavior;  
   | e. Taking of necessary measures to uncooperative female prisoners and those who break prison regulations;  
   | f. Any other tasks assigned to the police authority and required by the nature of their work. |
| 2   | Cabinet Resolution No. (249) of 2007 on the approval of the proposal to amend specific provisions of the Republican Decree by Law No. (12) of 1974, on Crimes and Penalties and amendments therein. Amendments:  
   | Article (232): when a husband kills his wife and her partner in infidelity, or when a wife kills her husband and his partner in infidelity, when caught in flagrante delicto (red handed) or if he assaulted him or she assaulted her to death or caused him/her physical handicap, there shall be no execution for such act. Rather the husband or wife who perpetrated such act shall be imprisoned for not less than six months and not more than one year, or shall be charged with a fine of YR. 50 thousand. The same ruling shall apply on an individual who caught any of his parental/parental relatives or descendants or sisters in flagrante delicto.  
   | Article (272):  
   | Any individual who commits the act of prostitution shall be imprisoned for not less than five years and not more than ten years.  
   | Article (42)  
   | The blood money for women shall be equal to that of men, so is her compensation for wounds. |
| 3   | Cabinet Resolution No. (250) of 2007, on approval to the proposal to amend article (97) of law No. (40) of 2002 on Pleading and Civil Execution. Amendment; Article (97):  
   | The competence shall be vested on the court of the home of the defendant or plaintiff in the following lawsuits:  
   | 1. Lawsuits regarding alimony.  
   | 2. Lawsuits regarding divorce for failure to sustain the family. |
3. Lawsuits regarding custody claim if filed by the mother.

   Amendment: Article (32), clause (6):
   1. Separate new prisoners from old ones with precedents.
   2. Isolate prisoners who perpetuated crimes that have serious social impacts.
   3. Separate foreign prisoners from Yemeni prisoners.
   4. Separate juvenile prisoners from adult ones.
   5. Separate female prisoners from males.
   6. Separate female prisoners with debt or civil cases from female prisoners on criminal cases.

   Article (29):
   When children are allowed to stay with their mothers in the facility, required measures must be applied to establish day centers where they will be cared for.


They also proposed amendments for ten other laws under the Ministries of Social Affairs and Labor revision. These proposed amendments intend to:
- Address the discrepancies in identifying the age of a given child to conform to Child Right Convention’s provisions.
- Provide legal protection to children who live under hardships and address issues of violence against children, such as FGM, early marriage, child labor and juveniles’ rights;
- Intensify penalties on violators of child rights.

C - The Ministry of Health proposed a law for the protection of people living with AIDS to the House of Representatives where it is debated at the present time.

CEDAW Optional Protocol

Efforts are still continuing to expedite the Protocol’s discussions in the Parliament especially that the Cabinet has approved it.

3.1 Programs and Strategies

The Advancement of women gained momentum within the overall development process. In this respect, it can be concluded that women issues, particularly discrimination against women, have received wide deliberations among most government institutions, and were reflected in the national and sectoral plans and strategies, and in monitoring and evaluation processes at the central and local levels. Furthermore, women’s issues gained some support among decision-makers and in establishing a relevant gender database and information systems.

Most of the national programs and strategies are considered as the legal and organizational references to be followed by all institutions and bodies at the central and local levels in the implementation of their activities and programs that are directly related to women empowerment issues at various economic, social and political fields. It is worth mentioning here a number of national strategies in place, that are referred to in assessing the purposes, objectives, and policies that targets women situation in this period.

a - The Electoral Program of the President 2006:

The most important programs for women's development were within the context of the President's electoral program in 2006. The program included 16 provisions as follows:

1. A modern administration that serves citizens and promotes the institutions of the state;
2. Modern economic administration that ensures better living conditions;
3. Limit unemployment, combat poverty and enhance social safety net;
4. Create a developed infrastructure for a solid national economy;
5. Combat corruption;
6. Foster an attractive investment environment;
7. Establish a conducive platform for quality education and the dissemination of knowledge;
8. Better and quality health coverage and services;
9. Promote happiness in childhood and the training of capable youth to contribute to development process;
10. Support wider participation and empowerment of women in all fields;
11. Assist the Yemenis abroad, who are the bridge to civilization and support to development;
12. Preserve religious values of the community and develop national cultural factors;
13. Maintain free and happy citizens and a democratic and stable homeland;
14. Reinforce defensive and security capacities of the homeland to deepen security and stability;
15. Work towards enhanced cooperation and partnership with Gulf Countries Council (GCC);
16. Promote Yemen's national and regional role and international status.

b- A number of sectoral strategies were developed in various aspects they included women/gender components as cross-cutting issues in addition to the issuance of strategies pertaining to women issues/gender. The following are the most important strategies:

**3.1.1 Women’s Development Strategy (updated) 2006-2015**

The strategy was updated based on the Millennium Development Goals and in line with national priorities set by the Government to improve the lives of citizens. The WNC has made efforts to reflect the needs of women and to highlight gender gaps and propose remedies to bridge the gaps in its framework.

**3.1.2 Local Governance Strategy 2006-2020**

The Strategy aims to establish and develop a local governance system by year 2020, through the construction of legislative structure, the development of institutionalized structures, the development of human resources and material potentials to empower local governance units to contribute professionally and efficiently in attaining national and local development goals. This includes: inter-alia enhancement of public participation in managing local affairs; the provision of services to the citizens in the localities; establish base for the local economies; the creation of a favorable climate for investment; the alleviation of poverty; and the bridging of the development gap between urban and rural areas.

The Strategy strives to establish and develop local governance system, achieving purposes and objectives. It stresses that local development shall emerge from the local community which is featured as an "integrated system of political, economic, social, and cultural structures that targets sustainable improvement of living and wellbeing of all citizens males and females, at the local communities, in the rural and urban areas on the basis of their active and free participation aiming at achieving local development and ensure fair distribution of benefits derived therein".

**3.2.3 The National Strategy on Monitoring and Evaluation**

The Strategy is envisaged to improve monitoring and evaluation system performance, upgrade level of responses to the needs of bodies concerned with the implementation of the third Five Year Plan to Alleviate Poverty (qualitatively, quantitatively, and periodically), and improve monitoring and evaluation units performance in efficient and transparent manners, collection of data and using of harmonized and consistent criteria and indicators in drafting reports. The Strategy also integrated gender and women issues component in its processes. The Cabinet's Resolution No. (291) of 2008 urged all concerned parties to implement the Strategy.

**3.2.4 During 2006-2009 several sectoral strategies were developed as follows:**

- National Strategy on Microfinance;
- National Strategy on Child and Youth;
- National Strategy on Secondary Education;
- National Strategy on Vocational Education;
- National Strategy on Higher Education;
- National Strategy on Reproductive Health;
- National Strategy on Instruction to Reinforce National and Cultural Identity.
4 Actions to accelerate equality between men and women

The WNC prepared a number of studies on the quota system, the most recently was in 2008 by a national expert to support the claim of women in the application of this system to improve the level of participation in accordance with the directions of the electoral program of H.E. the President and in view of the limited access of women to the local councils in the elections that took place in September 2006. The outputs of the study were submitted after approval from a number of women's leadership to the Council of Ministers, which referred the matter to the ministerial committee for review. No decision was taken on the matter until the preparation of this report. Efforts are still continuing to establish the quota system.

***

Article 5: cultural and traditional practices that hinder the advancement of women in society

The advancement of women in Yemen is facing a wide range of obstacles and challenges of multiple causes, and highlights the paradox in society. These include looking at the social roles of women and men together, which leads to a discrepancy in the principle of equality and social justice as their social development has not kept pace with this change in the principle of equality. If this continues, it leads to the failure to provide opportunities for every citizen, and particularly women, which limits the release of the full potential and capabilities of those whose lives are already limited. The obstacles include a number of reasons, most notably:

- The weakness and lack of national and international efforts in both the direct targeting of women in development programs and projects, particularly those that take into account the development needs and their reproductive and productive roles.
- The absence of the economic contribution of women in the areas of development which lead to a worsening of the depth of the gender gap, as well as the increase in unemployment.
- The issuance of brochures and leaflets against women's demand to apply the quota system.
- The use of mosques for sermons against women's rights.
- The use of petitions to combat the elimination of discrimination against women.
- Seminars held regarding anti-women's issues.
- The control of local customs and traditions inherent to the development of women.
- The spread of illiteracy and dropout rate among girls in various stages of education.
- The limited number of jobs for women compared with their educational achievement and the needs of the developing societies, particularly in rural areas.
- The failure to provide social security for a large number of women working in the informal sector or self-employment.
- The limited funding sources and the weakness of the funds linked to the financing of income-generating projects, which contribute to the provision of job opportunities for women, although there are non-concessional as well as the difficulty that women face in access to such financial facilities.
- The limited role of the media in raising awareness of the community regarding traditional cultural practices against women.
- The absence of adequate community support to overcome such practices.
- Biased andocentric thinking, prevalent in our community, which does not serve to encourage the development of women.
- The narrow patriarchal attitude that women's participation in the political and career leadership is competitive with that of men’s.
- The confusion between Sharia doctrine that honored women, with culture and customs.
Participatory efforts are being made to all concerned governmental and non-governmental organizations regarding using and coordinating all tools of change to combat negative facets of the cultural legacy, in order to support the advancement of women through all means available. The intent is to focus on the media as the means by which to quickly reach all members of society. These efforts include:

• The production of television and radio programs,
• Publishing articles in newspapers and magazines.
• The regular publication of magazines and brochures.
• The production of live theater to highlight issues specific to the phenomena of discrimination and violence against women.
• Issuing leaflets and posters.
• Direct outreach activities in schools and universities.
• Hold workshops for employees and workers in the media.
• Symposia and joint meetings between the opponents and advocates of women's rights to bring together various points of view.
• Change stereotyped images of women through religious discourse.

5.1 Discriminatory practices against women and their solutions:

Some female activists in civil society, media and women movements were afflicted with such practices, sometimes in institutionalized forms, or perpetuated by individuals or colleagues. Some of them sought protection through administrative and legal measures, and some others pursued their course indifferently. Nonetheless, there is a need for a protective mechanism to combat discrimination against women.

A number of female activists in the civil society organizations operating on women’s issues were subjected to abuses in certain newspapers. One female journalist filed a lawsuit against the editor-in-chief of one independent newspaper for an article which slandered her. The court ruled in her favor with material compensation for the damage caused.

In 2007, some female employees in an institution filed a complaint against their male colleagues and the case was handled through administrative measures.

Many civil society organizations addressed this phenomenon and condemned it. They organized advocacy and solidarity activities protecting them against all forms and sources of violence.

5.2 Violence against Women:

Yemeni society, like that of other communities, is not free of images and manifestations of violence against women. The following table offers evidence regarding forms of violence against women:

The following table No.(2) demonstrates cases of violence against females in 2008:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Heinous Crimes</th>
<th>No. of Female Victims</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Premeditated Minor Harm</td>
<td>851</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Attempted Rape</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Premeditated Homicide</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Unpremeditated Harm</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Attempted Murder</td>
<td>142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Sexual Assault Without Force</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Forced Sexual Assault</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Abduction from Female Custodian</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>1256</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Ministry of Interior
It is worth noted that the registered cases for violence against women in 2008 were 2194. 257 women prisoners are distributed in 11 prisons.

The government is making significant efforts to combat violence against women and the elimination of discrimination against them to alleviate the manifestations of violence that have been mentioned. This is evident through the following activities and achievements:

- The establishment of ten sections for women in police stations in Sana'a City. These are managed by 27 police women, according to the Ministry of the Interior's sources.
- A training section has been introduced for the rehabilitation of women in 6 prisons in Sana'a, Aden, Hodeidah, Taiz, Ibb, Hajjah and Dhamar. This includes training in literacy as well as vocational skills, such as computer skills, sewing, and the marketing of products to enhance their living conditions upon their release from prisons.
- According to the Constitution and national laws, there is a mechanism to provide legal aid to defend and protect the rights of individuals before the courts. This aid is provided to the vulnerable and the poor, including women.

In addition to the above, some donor organizations in partnership with civil society organizations provide legal aid to prisoners before the courts.

5.3 Major activities in support of battered women and female prisoners:

The WNC and some non-state organizations implemented various activities to combat violence against women. These activities were sponsored and supported by donors (the governments of German, Netherlands, USA, EU, OXFAM-GB and UN agencies etc.) including:

- Two hotlines opened by CSOs in Aden and Sana'a cities to receive complaints from women.
- Meetings held with decision-makers to combat violence against women; namely with the Ministry of Interior and Prisons Authority on the status of female prisoners and their children;
- Several studies conducted on violence against women, including by the WNC which analyzed the reasons and consequences of violence against women, families and the community;
- WNC published a booklet on the Role of Islam in combating violence against women, in addition to a training manual on combating health-based violence against women which targeted imams of mosques;
- Addressed the phenomena of what is known as "Tourist Marriage", whereby the Ministry of Interior issued a circulation to prohibit this type of marriage without the express permission from the embassies of those seeking such a marriage;
- Produced short films on the phenomenon of "Tourist Marriage," and also a TV series and debates in media outlets on this issue;
- Trained imams, media personnel, etc, on the concept of violence against women and the means of combating it, and waged awareness campaigns through media outlets and mass media;
- Collected data and monitor this phenomena;
- Provided 3 shelters for female victims of violence;
- Established 7 units for legal support, and a data base for female victim of violence in 6 governorates;
- Drafted the Strategy to Combat Violence against Women within SHIMA network for 2005-2008;
- Integrated combating violence against women in all UN programs cycle of 2007-2011;
- Carried out the amendment of discriminatory laws against women;
- Conducted regional networking through the Studies and Research Center (CAWTAR) in Tunis;
- Participated in drafting the regional strategy to combat violence against women with ESCWA funding;
- Integrated the issue of violence against women in the Women Empowerment component within the present Five Year Plan;
- Approved the judiciary assistance project in the Ministry of Justice to assist women who cannot afford to file lawsuits in the courts;
- Implemented activities through SHIMA network on early marriage, an issue which represents an outrageous violence against the female child, focusing on three areas:
  First: to change existing policies and to propose a minimum age of marriage to be 18 years in the law;
  Second: to carry out awareness campaigns on the risks of early marriage and the need to raise the minimum age of marriage according to Islamic jurisprudence health studies in this respect;
  Third: to train and rehabilitate women to improve their living conditions.
  Fourth: meetings with members of Parliament to support delineating a minimum age of marriage.
- The German Government in 2008 funded a project to combat violence against women executed by UNFPA which included the following components:
  1. Advocacy, mobilization and support - implemented by the WNC;
  2. Protection for victims of violence through providing a safe house, and provision of consultations and legal assistance - implemented by the Yemeni Women Union;
  3. Research and studies - implemented by Women Studies Centers in Sana’a and Aden universities;
  4. Training - implemented by OXFAM-GB;
  5. Evaluation of all the activities combating against violence against women – by a national expert;
  6. Mapping the stakeholders in combating violence against women to assess their institutional and technical capacities and identify gaps and propose remedies to bridge such gaps.

5.4 Shelters for battered women and female prisoners:
Shelters for battered women and released women prisoners were opened. These shelters provide services including:
- Housing and food;
- Legal, social, and psychological advice;
- Resolve problems and disputes between family members;
- Resolving their cases expeditiously, if possible;
- Rehabilitation of prisoners through educational courses in sewing, embroidery; computer, education, writing and reading the Quran.

***

Article 6: Female Trafficking and Prostitution
The reference to the social attitude towards prostitution in Yemen was mentioned in the previous reports. The legislative texts also criminalize such act, which has not been changed during this period. There is a phenomenon in Yemen, which consists of the smuggling of children to various neighboring countries. Actions were developed to protect them in accordance with the following:
• Several consultative meetings were organized between Yemen and Saudi Arabia to combat the trafficking of children, which concluded with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in Riyadh in 2007, and included addressing the problem in a joint fashion and indicating a mechanism for repatriation.
Establishment of the National Technical Committee to Combat Child Trafficking under the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, as per the resolution of the Minister of Social Affairs and Labor;
The National Work plan to Combat Child Trafficking was developed in line with the National Strategy for Childhood and Motherhood approved by the cabinet;
A Center to receive minors who are repatriated victims was established in Sana'a;
Capacity building training (on-the-job training) was conducted for 120 persons working at the two temporary protection centers to receive child returnees and other care centers in the governorates;
Approval of the proposed legal amendments to laws relevant to children to conform to international conventions that Yemen has ratified. These proposed amendments are under parliament consideration, and include provisions that incriminate and penalize child traffickers and misuses;
40 police officers, boarder guards and workers at Haradh centre received training on 2009 on coordination and monitoring skills to combat child trafficking;
Implemented subsequent care program for 180 repatriated children in the two centers in Sana'a. 40 other children received vocational training in cooperation with Al-Saleh Foundation;
690 cab drivers operating between Hodeidah-Haradh, Hodeidah-Sana'a, Sa'ada, Hajjah and Taiz, received training on the risks of child trafficking and the legal penalties attached to such acts;
Implemented awareness campaigns for 2000 police officers, that helped in reinforcing monitoring operations where attempts to trafficking 1050 children were thwarted; including 454 children in 2007, 440 children in 2008 and 156 children in the first quarter of 2009;
Involved children in the awareness activities concerned with child trafficking through the Children’s Parliament. The members of Children's Parliament visited schools in the most impoverished areas, targeting more than 10 thousand children during 2008-2009;
Three TV and radio flashes on juveniles, child trafficking and violence were broadcast, and three articles on preventive measures were published in the Ministry of Interior newspaper.

6.1 Challenges

1. Poor national capacities to implement child protection programs;
2. Lack of data on child protection issues;
3. Slow legal reforms in the parliament;
4. Most of the cases of violence are concealed never heard about by the public and are considered a social and cultural taboo.

***
**Article 7: Political and Public Life**

Women participate in all public elections and referendums and are competent to elect to all elected bodies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of Constituencies</th>
<th>Registered Voters</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>No. of those who voted</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Males</td>
<td>Females</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5,346,805</td>
<td>3,900,565</td>
<td>9,248,456</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>57.8%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Supreme Elections and Referendum Commission

The total numbers of registered voters were (9,248,456) out of 19,685,161 about 47% of the population.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of Constituencies</th>
<th>No. of Candidates</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>No. of Winners</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Males</td>
<td>Females</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20,485</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>20,645</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(99.2%)</td>
<td>(0.78%)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(99.4%)</td>
<td>(0.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governorate Council</td>
<td>1600</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>1,627</td>
<td>417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(~98.3%)</td>
<td>(~1.7%)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(~98.1%)</td>
<td>(~1.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Council</td>
<td>18885</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>19,018</td>
<td>6,874</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(~99.3%)</td>
<td>(~0.7%)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(~99.6%)</td>
<td>(~0.4%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Supreme Elections and Referendum Commission
Table (5) Political Affiliation of Women Winners of Governorate and District Council Elections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Council</th>
<th>No. of Winners</th>
<th>Political Affiliation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Governorate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>People’s General Congress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Independent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Peoples General Congress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Yemeni Social Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Independent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>38</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Supreme Elections and Referendum Commission

The above three tables highlighted the following indicators:
- The total number of female candidates for the local councils election in 2006 was 16;
- The Political parties supported the candidacy of 80 women;
- The number of female independent candidates was 80;
- Female candidates ran for elections in 19 governorates and withdrew from Shabwa and Raima;
- There were no female candidates in Al-Mahara and Al-Dhalae governorates;
- The Number of districts where women ran for elections were 90 out of 333 districts, with a rate of 27 percent;
- 38 women won the elections, 35 on political parties’ tickets and 3 as independents:
  a- 8 women won membership of the local councils at the governorate level.
  b- 30 women won membership of the districts’ local councils.

7.1.1 The Supreme Elections and Referendum Commission:

1. The General Directorate of Women Affairs was established in August 2005. It mandated women’s political participation in the electoral process, to enhance women’s roles and their involvement in election committees during the electoral process. It mandated communication and debate with political parties and CSOs to promote women’s participation to reach elected councils;
2. It developed and implemented a Women’s Political Empowerment program with UNDP funding, in two phases:
   Phase One 2006:
   During presidential and local councils elections. This included training and awareness programs; publication of awareness materials for the local communities and female candidates and participation in media programs.
   Phase Two 2008-2009:
   Targeted formation of student working groups for electoral awareness at schools and women at literacy and adult education classes to spread awareness on women’s human rights, including political participation.
7.2 Women’s Participation in policy-making positions:

Relevant progress has been made regarding women’s representation in senior political and administrative posts. This progress is one of the indicators which measures gender improvement. These indicators demonstrate that there is lack of equal opportunities, and that women’s representation is rather a nominal one and thus has no impact on women’s empowerment or contribution to economic and social development. It could only be considered as a continuation of women’s marginalization despite the political commitment to support their advancement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cabinet</th>
<th>Shura Council</th>
<th>Diplomatic Corps</th>
<th>Deputy Minister</th>
<th>Director-General</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>Females</td>
<td>Males</td>
<td>Females</td>
<td>Males</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Males</td>
<td>Females</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>124</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Ministry of Civil Services – WNC data

Table (7) Number of Judges in Courts and the Ministry of Justice according to Post and Gender, in 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Post</th>
<th>At Courts</th>
<th>At the Ministry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female Judges</td>
<td>Male Judges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supreme Court Judge</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief of Appeal Court</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Chief of Appeal Court</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judge at Appeal Court</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief of Primary Court</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judge at Primary Court</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judge at District Court</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Prosecutor (a)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Prosecutor (b)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Prosecutor</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>676</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7.3 Representation of Women’s Participation at CSOs.

7.3.1 First: Women in Leading Bodies of the Political Parties:

Table (8) Women Participation in Leading Bodies of Political Parties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Political Party</th>
<th>Leading Bodies</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>% of Females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006-2008</td>
<td>People’s General Congress</td>
<td>General Committee</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yemeni Congregation Party (Islah)</td>
<td>Permanent Committee</td>
<td>886</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yemeni Social Party</td>
<td>General Secretariat</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Shura Council</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nasserite Unitarian Party</td>
<td>Politburo</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Central Committee</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>General Secretariat</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Central Committee</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Political parties

The above table demonstrates that Yemeni women are represented at leading bodies of the political parties. At the People’s General Congress there are 5 women to 34 men in the General Committee, and 89 women to 886 men in the Permanent Committee. At the Shura Council of Islah Party there are 13 women to 160 males and one woman to 14 men at the General Secretariat of the Party. At the Yemeni Social Party there are 3 women to 27 men in the Politburo, and 43 women to 270 men in the Central Committee, and 2 women in the General Secretariat to 17 men. At the General Secretariat of Nasserite Unitarian party there is one woman to 14 men and 8 women to 74 men in the Central Committee.
7.3.2 Second: Women in Unions

Table (9) indicates the number of women leaders elected in Unions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unions</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transportation &amp; Telecommunication</td>
<td>687</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical and Health Professions</td>
<td>427</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>513</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil, Minerals, and Chemicals</td>
<td>522</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>546</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building and Construction</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipality, Housing, Building and Materials Manufacturing</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food and Agriculture and Fishery</td>
<td>324</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>354</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banks, Financial Businesses and Social Insurance</td>
<td>554</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>646</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricity and Power</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water and Environment</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative and Social Services</td>
<td>372</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leather Works, Weaving and Textile, Garments, and Cotton Ginning Union</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Universities, Vocational Training and Scientific Research</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Universities</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,220</strong></td>
<td><strong>89</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,002</strong></td>
<td><strong>11</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,222</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Yemeni Laborers Unions Association

The table above explains the distribution of union women leaders elected to the union's committees in 2008. Their numbers reached 1002, with the rate of 25 percent of the total membership of the country laborers' union. Such a low rate is attributed to many reasons, including the poor participation of women in major economic sectors such as oil, mining, construction, transportation, electricity, water and environment. However, women are represented to a greater degree at light industries such as foodstuff, garments, fish industry, leather, textile and cotton ginning industries. Women are also occupying leading posts at the Unions General Association at the post of Secretary-General, and one member to the executive office, one woman as SG for the administrative services, one chief of communication, and one as SG of Medical and Health Professions Union.

7.3.3 Third: Civil Society Organizations:

The number of CSOs in Yemen reached 4052 in 2007; it increased to 4576 in 2008. Most of them are active in charity, professional, consumption, housing, and agriculture fields. Others are active in human rights including economic, social, political and civil rights. Some of the prominent CSOs are the Yemeni Women Union, the Sisters’ Arab Forum for Human Rights, the Islah Charity Society, the Yemeni Observatory for Human Rights, the Human Rights Information and Training Center, the Women Forum for Studies and Training, the Al-Tahadi
Society for Handicapped, the Al-Saleh Foundation, the Watan Coalition to increase number of female candidates at elected bodies, the Democratic School, Female Journalists Without Chains, the Family Care Association, the SOUL Organization, and the Young Leaders Organization.

**Major Achievements of some of these Organizations:**

- Establishment of women’s shadow parliament in April 2009, the first of its kind in the region. The parliament held its first session on April 2009 and elected the presidium;
- Implementation of three training programs in advocacy in which female candidates to the Shadow Parliament were trained;
- Formed advocacy campaigns and coalitions in favor of women’s issues by the Shadow Parliament members;
- Publication of newspaper of the Shadow Parliament;
- Drafted a strategy for the Women’s Shadow Parliament;
- Conducted a study on citizenship for wives married to foreigners in Sana’a, Aden, Hadhramout, Sa’ada, Hajjah and Hodeidah governorates;
- Participated in a regional study on identification documents and their importance for women;
- Publication of training manuals regarding citizenship, media coverage of elections, election contests before primary courts, resolution of water disputes, international conventions;
- Monitoring of the presidential and local councils election of 2006;
- Production of awareness materials on the risks of early marriage and the importance of girls’ education;
- Production of posters and cassettes supporting and encouraging the candidacy of women;
- Program on the transparency and independence of the primary courts. 1000 judges benefited from this program from all governorates;
- A three-year program on promoting women’s role in developing local communities in 21 governorates;
- Training on election campaigns for 43 women candidates interested in candidacy for the local councils' elections in 2006;
- Preparation of analytical report to monitor the presidential and local elections in 2006;
- Implement a program for awareness and exert pressure to expand women’s participation in the elected bodies.
- Program on human rights and the economic empowerment of rural women which was implemented in Sa’ada, Al-Jawf, Amran, Ibb and Dhamar.
- Launched the Women’s Democratic Monitoring website www.womendw.org that monitors democratic change in the Arab region and its impact on women.

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**Article 8: Representation and Participation of Women on the International Level**

8.1 Women’s participation in diplomatic professions remained very limited during the past period of time. However, women made their way to the most senior posts of the diplomatic corps, although in limited numbers. There is one female ambassador, 5 plenipotentiaries, 5 councilors, 3 first secretaries, 3 second secretaries, 13 third secretaries, 15 diplomatic attachés. The total number of males in diplomatic professions is 477, and the total number of females is 45, with a rate of 9.43 percent.

- Women’s participation in international organizations is very low, with only one woman occupying the post of UN Under-Secretary, Director of Regional Bureau of Arab States (RBAS) at UNDP, and one woman in the Regional Bureau of FAO.

The table below reveals the wide gap between males and females in the diplomatic corps, particularly at senior posts.
Table (10) Women's representation in diplomatic corps (2006-2008)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Post</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>% of Females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ambassador</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plenipotentiary</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councilor</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Secretary</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Secretary</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Secretary</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diplomatic Attaché</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>42.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>501</strong></td>
<td><strong>27</strong></td>
<td><strong>5.39</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: WNC data 2008 – Ministry of Foreign Affairs

8.2 Article (92) of Diplomatic and Consulate Corps, which treats the retirement of women at the diplomatic corps, was amended to equalize females and males since 2008. Table (12) explains the number of female and male retirees:

Table (11) No. of women and men retirees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: WNC data 2008 – Ministry of Legal Affairs
8.3 Challenges

1. Lack of internal and external training opportunities for women.
2. Lack of opportunities for women, unlike men, to participate in bilateral talks, conferences and official delegations;
3. A general reluctance to nominate women to work at specialized organizations;
4. The negative attitude of the community towards women’s political participation;
5. The reluctance of government agencies to promote the empowerment of women in senior positions;
6. The bias towards men in promotion and advancement;
7. The lack of legal justification regarding women’s representation in elected bodies, in particular in decision-making positions in general;
8. A lack of awareness among women of their political rights.

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Article 9: Nationality

A member of the Parliament – Shaikh Sinan Al-Ajji has proposed an amendment to the Nationality Law to eliminate legal discrimination against women which restricts the rights of Yemeni women to extend her nationality to her children from a foreign father. The amendment was approved and children of Yemeni woman can enjoy their mother’s nationality, similar to those of a Yemeni father, according to the amended law, as of March 2009.

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Part Three
Articles 10-14

Article 10: Education

Educational institutions are exerting tremendous efforts and have created educational opportunities in all categories. They paid notable attention to infrastructure, drafted policies and strategies, and specified the girls' education component at the Basic Education and Secondary Education strategies. They established the Girls' Education Sector at the Ministry of Education, chaired by a woman. Three general directorates for women were established at the ministries of Technical Education, Higher Education and Literacy and Adult Education Apparatus. The Cabinet also approved the establishment of Girls Education Sector at the Ministry of Vocational Education in April 2009. These endeavors reflect the commitment of all the educational institutions, and in particular the Ministry of Education, to minimize the gender gap in the admissions rate at various levels. The following data explains such endeavors:

10.1 Preschool Education

The number of kindergartens increased during 2004-2007 from 212 to 408. The rate of children admitted to these institutions rose among the 0-6 year-old age group from 833 male and 6904 female children to 11,956 male and 10,069 female children.

10.2 Basic Education

The rate of admission during the 2005/2006 school years reached 40.48 percent for females and 52.59 percent for males. In the 2007/2008 school year females' rate reached 42 percent and males' 58 percent.

10.3 Secondary Education

The rate of female students admitted to secondary education in the 2005-2006, 2006-2007, and 2007-2008 school years reached 32.87, 33.52, and 34.6 percent respectively, out of the total rate of students.

The rates of female employees at public basic and secondary education reached 23 percent, in the 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 academic year, respectively.

10.4 The infrastructure in general education

The total number of schools at the basic and secondary level in public education is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Year</th>
<th>Schools for Male Students</th>
<th>Schools for Female Students</th>
<th>Co-education</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005-2006</td>
<td>1,237</td>
<td>985</td>
<td>12,753</td>
<td>14,975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-2007</td>
<td>1,433</td>
<td>1,203</td>
<td>13,354</td>
<td>15,990</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Ministry of Education
The table illustrates the high number of co-education schools that are more common in rural areas, due to the limited ability of the state to construct separate schools for both sexes. School appliances are lacking at schools in rural areas.

The General Department for Supplying Equipment provides the schools with adequate equipment. Nevertheless, these supplies are not adequately distributed to rural areas due to many reasons, including:
- Most school buildings in rural areas are made of huts, tents or old homes;
- The lack of follow-up on the part of school administrators, due to the distance between schools and the departments of educational sites;
- The rugged roads in rural areas;
- The overcrowding of schools in urban areas which leads to the overuse of equipment.

### 10.5 Higher Education

The number of public universities reached 7, with 13 private universities in the country as well. There are also 14 research centers, of which two are specialized in women's issues. The rate of female students admitted at universities during 2005-2006, 2006-2007, and 2007-2008 school years reached 26.79 percent, 27.8, 28.9, and 28 percent respectively. However, 31 percent of these females are admitted to the science and applied sciences section, while two thirds are in the arts (theoretical) section.

- In higher education the rate of female staff reached 18 percent.

### 10.6 Combating Illiteracy

The results of the Census in 2004 indicated that the illiteracy rate among women was (61%). Despite the magnitude of this figure due to economic factors, social and cultural, the State, represented by the Literacy and Adult Education, exerted efforts to reduce this rate, thus (2.948) Centers have been opened to absorb the enrollment of the students where the number in the academic year 2006 - 2007 reached (9.157) male students and (119.461) females.

No date was available for the annual decline among illiterate women.

### 10.7 Technical Education and Vocational Training

Although this course of education is new to females, their rates are increasing annually, with 11 percent rates in the 2005-2006, 2006-2007, and 2007-2008 respectively. Furthermore, the state has allocated 5 technical
education institutions for female students – which are under construction - in addition to specialized training courses for both sexes in various specializations.

The rate of female employees in technical education and vocational training institutions reached 14.64 percent, and the number of students admitted at public technical education reached 2,218 students, including 285 female students mainly in health education and community colleges.

**10.8 Centers for the Disabled**

Five centers were established for the disabled that admitted 597 males and females. Of these, 22 percent are females. On the other hand, the number of students with special needs at schools reached 2,095 students. Of these, 50.17 percent are females.

**10.9 On-job Training**

- The education institutions are providing on-the-job training for both male and female teaching staff, in urban and rural areas, particularly in public and technical education sectors;
- Training and rehabilitation centers were opened for all without exceptions;
- The concerned authority at the educational sector provides on-the-job training for educational staff with a special focus on female employees, particularly at the Literacy and Adult Education Apparatus and the Ministry of Education;
- In the year 2006-2007, 180 male and female instructors, 1,176 male and female teachers, and 180 administrative staff received training;
- The rate of females in basic education who participated in the training courses, conferences and internal and external workshops reached 36.6 percent in 2006.

Furthermore, in order to encourage girls to enroll and continue at education sector, the Ministry of Education issued a ministerial circulation to exempt girls at 1-6 grades and boys at 1-3 grades from tuition fees.

**10.10 Educational Curricula**

The text books are made available to all in the beginning of the school year. If there is a shortage this will affect both boys and girls. As for the stereotypical roles of men and women depicted in some textbooks this has not been changed. Currently, there are efforts to make appropriate changes by the girls' education sector in the Ministry of Education, in collaboration with the Center for Research and Educational Development.

**10.11 Scholarships**

- The total of students abroad in 2007 reached more than 6,158 in 41 countries, in accordance with the protocols signed with some of these countries;
- In 2008 this number increased to a total of around 7,678 students, male and females (7,130 males - and 557 females);
- The female undergraduate and the post graduates reached 7% in both levels respectively;
- The females received 79% of the internal scholarships in 2007 compare to 21% for males;
- In 2008 the figure was 85% for females and 15% for males.

The above data indicates that there exist equal opportunities for both sexes in scholarships in general, but that opportunities remain very low for females in external scholarships due to the high turnout of males in education abroad and because of customs and traditions that are not in favor of girls traveling alone to study.

**10.12 Girls Dropouts in Public Education**

Although the dropout rate for girls has increased, in recent years an increase of in the rate of dropouts among male students has also been witnessed. Whereas dropout rates reached 9.2 among girls it reached 12.8 percent among male students, according to the Status of Women Report 2007. On the other hand, the Status of Women Report 2008 revealed an increase in the dropout rates among male and female students, reaching 14.1 percent and 12.5 percent respectively. The increase of dropouts among male students could be
attributed to livelihood requirements where they leave school to work, whereas the decrease among female students is due to the incentives provided by Food for Education program funded by World Food Program (WFP).

10.13 Sports

The schools in Yemen operate in two shifts, morning and evening, and teachers are required to complete the curriculum according to the Ministry of Education’s plan. Therefore, it is quite hard to include sports activities. Moreover, other impediments include the social stigma attached to women’s sports, that parents might not accept and might discourage them from enrolling their girls at schools.

10.14 Education in Family Health and Planning

The science and Arabic language curriculum, particularly in the subject of reading, includes instructions that urge students to care for their families, and to promote the health of mothers and children. It also urges households to follow a nutrition system that improves children and parents’ health. However, the issue of family planning is the concern of Ministry of Public Health and Population.

10.15 Government allocation for Education

- The Yemeni government has allocated generous funds for education: the budget allotted for education reached YR.231 billion in 2007, YR.160.6 billion allotted for public education, representing 14.3 percent of the public budget. However, education is still in need of further support due to the rapid increase in population growth.

Challenges

Challenges facing the education of women in Yemen:
1. The high rate of illiteracy among women.
2. The high rate of dropouts among girls, particularly in rural areas due to poverty and early marriage.
3. The lack of female staff in education, particularly in rural and remote areas.
4. Cultural customs which play a major role in perpetuating illiteracy and the ignorance of women.
5. The lack of health facilities especially for girls at the school level.
6. The distance of the schools from the population, especially in rural areas.
7. The time and efforts required by girls to carry out chores inside and outside the home, which often comes at the expense of education.

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Article 11: Labor

Equal Opportunities between Men and Women in Labor

Equality between women and men in work is a right guaranteed by the Constitution and the laws in force. There is equality in employment, wages, conditions of service and selection of professional and others...

It will be apparent from the following paragraphs:

11.1 The Working Women

The Government of Yemen, through the Ministries of Civil Service Affairs and Social Affairs and Labor, provides employment and labor opportunities for all in accordance with the laws of the two ministries. Nevertheless, there are several factors and challenges that affect many women in particular, including the spread of illiteracy and lack of opportunities for training and rehabilitation, mediation and favoritism in the distribution of some jobs.
WNC has played a major role in calling for the amendment of labor laws to attain social equality. A number of laws were amended in 2008. These include laws regarding:

1- The diplomatic corps;
2- Social Security Code;
3- Insurance and Pensions and amendments therein;
4- Labor, and amendments therein;

To provide required social services to enable parents to attend to family obligations and work responsibilities and participation in public life, a legal provision was enacted to establish child care facilities and kindergartens. However this was not achieved in reality.

11.2 General Directorate for the Development of Women’s Labor

It commenced its activities with the implementation of "Capacity Building" project which has resulted from the technical cooperation between the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, the ILO regional office, and the government of the Netherlands. The project focused on the following activities:

1. Capacity building:
   Included meetings to promote team spirit, reactivation workshops and supervisory visits, and coordination with partners.

2. Media forum:
   - To support working women and promote decent work in the workplace, and social justice at work and production fields;
   - To advocate for labor women issues in education, health and agriculture sectors;
   - To hold awareness raising events for 12 thousand male and female workers on decent work that preserves human dignity and social justice, targeting public and private sectors, workers with low to medium scientific levels, and those who have poor access to training, including illiterates and those with low levels of education.

Major outcomes achieved:
- Positive cooperation and contribution by the government, private sector and workers;
- The program has responded to many questions and queries raised by workers;
- Promote relationship between labor offices and private institutions.

11.3 Women’s work according to economic activity

The total size of the labor force (15 years and above) in 2005 - 2006 as per the results of the household budget survey was 11.134 million, of which the number of females was 5.658 million, approximately 51% of the total population.

The numbers of working women were 320 thousand, which is about 8.42%, compared to 3.8 million of working men.

36% of women had paid jobs versus 52% of men.

43% were self-employed or employers’ women compared to 47% of men.

The low participation rate of women in economic activity is due to discriminatory practices within the family and in the labor market towards them, as well as poor infrastructure, which adversely affects the ability of women to gain access to the work site.

The WNC implemented a study developed by a national expert to evaluate the third five-year plan for economic sectors that have been identified for women in which it specified an increase in women participation by 8% annually in education and health sectors, and 4% in the industrial sector during the period of 2005-2008. The study showed that the rate of growth achieved in the industrial sector was 2.8%, while in the
education sector it has achieved the highest increase about 10.8%. It was also found that the highest proportion of women labor is concentrated in the sectors of health and education. There is a decline in women’s work in the agriculture sector, causing them to rank second for the first time in 2008.

This decline of women’s labor in agriculture is due to many reasons including:
- A relative increase in girls education;
- Employment opportunities in various sectors;
- The high cost of agricultural inputs and the search for other income-enhancing options.

The study indicated also that the contribution of women in the labor force in various sectors does not comply with the state’s policy towards the elimination of the gender gap and does not reflect equal opportunities and job distribution as seen in the following indicators:
- The proportion of female labor to the total labor force was 17% in 2008;
- Women obtained 20.2% of the net increase in jobs during 2005-2008 comparing to 79.8% for men;
- The employment gender gap reached 75 point to the total employment, i.e. 25 women employed for every 100 men, which counts as a 1.6% annual increase.

11.4 Women's Work in the Informal Sector

The informal sector can be defined as the work carried out without a written contract and without the benefits of social protection, legal, health or social insurance. It includes self-employment or working for others through low wages in cash or in-kind. It is often carried out at home with the help of family members, and includes the production of goods and products of exchange and barter, such as textiles, embroidered handicrafts, selling goods from house to house, providing cleaning services, working as a beautician, singing in weddings and events; offering private lessons to students at home, and midwifery services. In addition to this, a degree of trade between households takes place in order to improve living conditions and avoid taxation.

Regarding the employment of women in rural areas, this could be classified as a work of a marginal type since it is done by herself and assisted by the children of the family. Women do not receive remuneration as it is carried out in small family holdings to meet the needs of the family in obtaining necessary foodstuffs.

The results of a study carried out by the Labor Sector in the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor in 2008 on women workers in the informal sector demonstrates the following:
- Most women work from their homes;
- 22% of working women in this sector work more than (8) hours daily;
- The low educational status of female workers in this sector has resulted in entry-level careers and low wages;
- 38% of working women get cash, and 34% of these are self-employed and 20% participate with the family.

Women’s involvement in this sector expanded due to the following reasons:

a. A lack of political and economic stability.
b. The increase in population;
c. The side-effects of restructuring and privatization processes;
d. The high illiteracy rate among women;
e. The relative development in the levels of public, vocational and university education;
f. The high rates of urbanization (migration from rural to urban areas);
g. The reluctance of the private sector to employ married women, due to the associated burdens;
h. Poor employment opportunities due to poor investment chances;
i. The lack of an encouraging environment for women’s work such as kindergartens;
j. The reluctance of households to allow women to work;

k. Our inherited culture that underestimates the value of women’s work and the ability of women to work beside men;

I. Tax evasion;

Table (13) illustrates the relative distribution of the employed workforce (+ 15 years) in the informal sector, according to workplace, and gender in rural and urban areas:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workplace</th>
<th>Urban areas %</th>
<th>Rural areas %</th>
<th>Total %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Males</td>
<td>Females</td>
<td>Males</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households</td>
<td>6.58</td>
<td>52.25</td>
<td>4.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street vendors (in a fixed place)</td>
<td>14.77</td>
<td>6.67</td>
<td>10.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street vendors (in an unfixed place)</td>
<td>16.91</td>
<td>8.23</td>
<td>17.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction site (does not belonging to a specific institution)</td>
<td>20.53</td>
<td>3.17</td>
<td>27.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicles (not belonging to a specific institution)</td>
<td>13.72</td>
<td>1.75</td>
<td>11.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other places</td>
<td>27.49</td>
<td>27.92</td>
<td>27.77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total 100 100 100 100 100 100

Source: Men and Women in Yemen – Statistical Portrait 2007

The above table indicates that:

- A high rate of women were working at their households meaning that they were practicing traditional work, such as weaving palm baskets and carpets, creating utensils, sewing and weaving, etc.

- The rate of women working inside their homes reached 51.14 percent: 52.25 in urban areas and 50.02 in rural areas;
11.5 Women’s Business Council

This council was established in March 2006, by a number of businesswomen in various fields. It has opened 5 branches in the governorates of Capital City, Aden, Hadhramout, Shabwa and Ibb.
- A special window was allocated for the business women to facilitate their work.
- A database of women entrepreneurs was established by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce in five governorates: Aden, Taiz, Hadhramout, Sana’a and the Capital City.
- A strategy for the integration of women entrepreneurs in economic development was prepared which has been approved in the first national conference for businesswomen in early 2009.
- Businesswomen departments were established in the offices of Chambers of Commerce throughout the Republic.
- A Council for Industrial Development and Investment in 2009 was established with one woman member.

11.6 Labor Market Trends to Women Work

The labor market requires skills as lacks skilled and qualified labor. Women, mostly, lack the required market skills. Thus the gap between skilled women and men is clearly evident especially when women are rejected for employment due to this reason. Nevertheless, the women who are skilled and qualified are able to get employment but only in low-level and entry-level positions in banks, private companies, tourism, and factories. These include the following:
- Secretaries;
- Customer Service;
- Banknote counting;
- Sorting and wrapping the products in factories.

Positions in decision making are still beyond women’s aspirations in the private sector due to cultural and societal taboos and lack of a friendly working atmosphere.
The public sector, as compared to the private sector, provides more opportunities for qualified women to reach decision making positions. Most of women in the workforce are concentrated in the education and health sectors which are socially acceptable.

11.7 Difficulties and Obstacles facing Women Integration at Labor Market

These obstacles, which have been mentioned above, can be summarized as follows:
- The rise in the rate of illiteracy.
- High fertility rate among females at the rate of 5-6 children per woman in urban areas, and 7-8 in rural areas;
- The reluctance of the private sector to employ married women;
- The lack of women's employment in high paying jobs in the private sector;
- The inconsistency of university education outputs with the labor markets needs;
- Insufficient measures to link vocational training and technical education to the labor market needs;
- Inaccessibility of women to resources such as land, loans and information;
- Poor services including child care services such as kindergartens;
- Some women abandon their employment upon marriage;
- The differences in working and school hours;
- The lack of training opportunities for women internally and externally;
- Few women possess production potentials such as land, capital and livestock as compared to men;
**Article 12: Health**

12.1. The state is striving through plans and programs to enhance health, medical and protective services. The State, the private sector and the CSOs roles are integrated in providing these services to improve population health and increase life expectancy, and thereby to contribute to productivity, economic growth and health services that the Yemeni constitution has provided for all male and female citizens.

The third Five Year Plan for Development and Poverty Alleviation 2006-2011 contained many quantitative objectives and future trends aimed at improving women health, including:

- To decrease maternity mortality from 366 deaths to 238 deaths by 2010;
- To increase childbirth under medical supervision from 26 percent to 45 percent;
- To increase the use of family planning from 13 to 35 percent;
- To increase nursing mother care to 25 percent;
- To reduce sexually transmitted diseases to 30 percent; to contain HIV/AIDS;
- To decrease annual infections of malaria by 75 percent;
- To protect 60 percent of women during their childbearing years and children below five years of age in malaria endemic areas by providing mosquito nets.

**Many national strategies and plans were adopted in this respect including:**

- The National Strategy on Reproductive Health 2006-2010;
- The National Strategy to Combat Malaria 2006-2010;
- Approval of the National Action Plan to Abandon FGM 2008-2012;
- The National Strategy for Cancer is under process;
- Forming a number of coalitions such as (the National Coalition for Safe Motherhood and the National Coalition to Combat Breast Cancer).
Table (14) illustrates major achievements at maternal, reproductive and women health in 2006-2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Maternal mortality</td>
<td>365 cases per 100 thousand live births</td>
<td>365 cases per 100 thousand live births</td>
<td>365 cases per 100 thousand live births</td>
<td>The rate remains constant in all official reports published by the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Planning and the Status of Women Reports by WNC, due to the fact that the Ministry of Health did not conduct a national survey or study to monitor positive or negative changes in this indicator. Whereas the maternal mortality in Yemen is one of the highest in the world; with 30 percent of deaths resulted from malaria, 17 percent from respiratory problems, 15 percent from senility, 12 percent from blood pressure, and 8 percent from cardiologic diseases. The Cluster Survey statistics reveals that mortality rate among illiterate mothers is 89.3 percent (of the 365 cases per 100 thousand live births) and 74 percent for married women before 20 years of age.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Fertility rate</td>
<td>(6.1) on average, per woman</td>
<td>(5.2) 4 in urban areas, 6 in rural areas</td>
<td>(5.2) 4 in urban areas, 6 in rural areas</td>
<td>Available data at Ministry of Health, are not regularly updated, following the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey of 2006, the Comprehensive Health Inventory of 2007, therefore all data in 2008 remain identical to that of 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Use of family planning methods</td>
<td>27.7 percent (43.3 among women in urban areas, and 21.1 percent in rural areas)</td>
<td>28 percent</td>
<td>28 percent</td>
<td>Available data at Ministry of Health, are not regularly updated, following the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey of 2006, the Comprehensive Health Inventory of 2007, therefore all data in 2008 remain identical to that of 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Births under medical supervision</td>
<td>35.7 percent</td>
<td>36 percent</td>
<td>36 percent</td>
<td>Available data at Ministry of Health, are not regularly updated, following the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey of 2006, the Comprehensive Health Inventory of 2007, therefore all data in 2008 remain identical to that of 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Pre-natal care</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>47 percent</td>
<td>47 percent</td>
<td>Available data at Ministry of Health, are not regularly updated, following the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey of 2006, the Comprehensive Health Inventory of 2007, therefore all data in 2008 remain identical to that of 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Status of female health service providers</td>
<td>28 percent</td>
<td>42 percent</td>
<td>45 percent</td>
<td>Available data at Ministry of Health, are not regularly updated, following the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey of 2006, the Comprehensive Health Inventory of 2007, therefore all data in 2008 remain identical to that of 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Motherhood and childhood centers</td>
<td>530</td>
<td>582</td>
<td>586</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above table shows the progress achieved in women's health care during pregnancy. Minor improvements noticed in this category range from 45 to 47 percent. The fertility rate declined from 6.2 in 2004 to 5.1 in 2008, and apparently the decline in fertility is linked to the increase in use of family planning methods, which increased from 13.4 percent in 2004 to 28 percent in 2008. The outcomes of the Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey of 2006, published in 2007, have revealed that 27.7 percent of married women mentioned that they used family planning means: 42.3 percent in urban areas, and 21.1 percent in rural areas. Furthermore, the rate declined among young married women in the 15-19 age groups to about 10.4 percent; and rose to 35 percent among 35-39 age groups. The rate of using methods of family planning rose among women who have 4 live children and more, and declined with the declining number of live children of a married woman. Furthermore, the use of methods of family planning means is linked to the education level of women and living conditions of the family. Illiterate women represent the lowest rate at 22.5 percent, and female holders of secondary school certificates and higher represent the highest rate at 42.1 percent.

The use of methods of family planning declined among the category of poor women to 14.7 percent, and rose among well-off women to 43.7 percent. The above table also illustrates the progress achieved regarding births under medical supervision that rose from 35 percent in 2006 to 36 percent in 2008.

The abovementioned Cluster Survey data revealed that only 35.7 percent of births were under qualified medical staff in the two years prior to the Survey; 61.7 percent in the urban areas compared to 26.3 percent in rural areas. The Ministry of Health is striving to provide Obstetric emergency drugs to enforce the free births resolution which has reached a 40 percent implementation rate in major cities. The rate is also impacted by the economic situation of women, where 17.1 percent of poor women receive medical assistance upon delivery and 73.6 percent of rich women receive such assistance. Such improvement could be attributed to the increase in hospitals and motherhood and childhood centers where the latter increased from 530 in 2006 to 586 centers in 2008.

### 12.2 Female Workers in Health Sector

The number of female workers in the health sector has increased, and the gender gap was minimized in this category, where the rate increased from 28 percent in 2006 to 45 percent in 2008. Most of them are nurses or midwives at 75.7 percent out of the total number of female workers that include physicians, technicians, and administrative staff. On the other hand, women are underrepresented in decision-making positions: there is one woman at the post of deputy minister for the population sector, 8 women at the director general post, and 2 serve as consultants to the minister.

### 12.3 Nutrition

The Ministry of Health, in cooperation with WFP is endeavoring to improve the health and nutrition status of the targeted groups through 48 health centers at 12 districts. The food ration provided by the WFP is considered as a nutritional substitute for children below five years of age, and pregnant and nursing mothers who suffer from malnutrition. The Action Plan on Nutrition Assistance for Women, Children and other Vulnerable Groups, 2007-2011 commenced with total cost of $11,188,209, and 20,684 metric tons of foods that will be distributed. The rate of beneficiaries from this program is 75 percent of pregnant and nursing women.
The Seventh National Report - CEDAW

Table (15) Services provided to children below five years of age, pregnant and nursing mothers, 2007-2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Beneficiaries</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Qty</th>
<th>Foodstuff</th>
<th>Governorate</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Pregnant and nursing mothers</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>25.200</td>
<td>8.3 mt</td>
<td>Wheat, oil+A,D Vit., sugar</td>
<td>Hodiedah, Lahej, Taiz, Ibb, Al-Dhalae, Hadhramout</td>
<td>The number of beneficiaries is for two years (12,600 each year)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Children below five years of age</td>
<td>10.000</td>
<td>9.600</td>
<td></td>
<td>Wheat and Soya mixture, oil+A,D Vit., sugar</td>
<td>Hodiedah, Lahej, Taiz, Ibb, Al-Dhalae; Hadhramout</td>
<td>The number of beneficiaries is for two years (5000 males and 4800 females each year)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tuberculosis patients</td>
<td>1.320</td>
<td>1.240</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hodiedah, Taiz, Sana’a</td>
<td>The number of beneficiaries is for two years (660 males and 620 females each year)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Leprosy Patients</td>
<td>460</td>
<td>440</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hodiedah, Taiz, Hadhramout</td>
<td>The number of beneficiaries is for two years (230 males and 220 females each year)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>11.780</td>
<td>36.480</td>
<td></td>
<td>Total number of beneficiaries were 48,260 in 2007-2008</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: WFP 2008

12.4 Malaria Infections

The available data on malaria patients are not gender-classified, noting that the infection of women with malaria has a special significance in that it causes abortion, stillbirths and underweight infants. Mothers' mortality due to malaria is estimated at more than 30 percent, and malaria is considered a major health problem in the country. Malaria infection cases are estimated at 223 thousand in 2006 and 156 thousand in 2007, declining to 125,854 cases in 2008. The National Program to Combat Malaria is exerting notable efforts to protect pregnant women and children below five years of age from malaria, with the aspiration to declare Yemen a malaria-free country by 2015.

12.5 Cancer Infections

The Household Budget Survey of 2005-2006, revealed that there are 49 females suffering from cancer from among each 100 thousand females, compared to 32 males, with the exception of hidden or undiagnosed cases. Cancer is the second cause of death for women after cardiology and blood vessels diseases, with breast and womb cancer in the lead. Unfortunately, official gender-classified statistics could not be obtained from the National Center for Cancer Treatment for the years 2006, 2007 and 2008. However, the annual rate of cancer is estimated at more than 25 thousand cases including both males and females.

12.6 HIV/AIDS

Official statistics revealed that detected cases of AIDS reached 2,550 cases in 2008: 62 percent among males and 38 percent among females. However, WHO estimated that behind each detected case of AIDS lays 50 to 100 cases. Yemen is considered to be among the countries with the least reported cases of AIDS, therefore the National Program to Combat AIDS is developing means of protection and detection, and four centers were
opened in four governorates. These efforts require more support to implement the generals' objectives of the updated National Strategy to Protect from and Combat AIDS, 2009-2013.

12.7 Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Part of the efforts exerted to abandon this practice is the National Action Plan 2008-2012, adopted by the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, to reduce the practice to 30 percent by 2012. The Action Plan is being implemented by concerned government institutions and CSOs, including analytical study on the state of FGM in Yemen, with major outcomes as follows:

- FGM is practiced in 4 out of 21 governorates, where the inhabitants stress that FGM is crucial part of their lives which is related to religion and culture;
- Rate of support to continue this practice is ironically higher among women with 71.4 percent compared to men 48 percent. Illiterate women are more supportive than women with secondary school and university education;
- Spread of this practice is high even in urban areas such as Sana’a with 45.5 percent;
- There is a need to conduct more researches to understand the social and cultural context of specific communities where FGM is practiced. A need for specific actions is also required on:
  - The exploration of knowledge, attitudes, tendencies and practices in the 4 governorates;
  - The health, psychological and social damages from this practice;
  - The context regarding the religious "justification" of this practice;
  - The plan to wage an awareness campaign on the devastating impact of this practice in the 5 coastal governorates. The plan is to abandon this practice by 50 percent of the grandmothers at the age of 40-70 years and parents at the age of 15-45 years, by the year 2012.

This is in addition to the efforts exerted to enact a law identifying the minimum age of marriage age at 17 years for males and females which has been submitted to the parliament to approve it following recent discussions on the issue since early 2009.

12.8 Media and Health Education

Many institutions are exerting efforts and encouraging research and information on women and health education issues, namely the National Program for Information and Health Education, at the Ministry of Public Health and Population, which organizes media campaigns on children and maternal health including reproductive health, breastfeeding, nutrition for pregnant and nursing mothers, infant diseases, etc. Media campaigns broadcast a total of 337 hours in 2008 at 10 local radio stations, in addition to different publications, mobile cinema shows, and films produced by the Program and which reached a wide range of population. WNC is also prepared two training manuals: one on Health Based Violence against Women and one on Reproductive Health and Gender from an Islamic Perspective, used for training in some governorates. It also conducted a field study to assess the implementation of the resolution regarding deliveries (of infants) free-of-charge.

12.9 Financial Resources allotted for Health Sector (Women Health Allocation)

The health sector allocation is not more than 5.2 percent of the total public budget, and women’s health allocation is unknown specifically, except what is provided within the Investment Program for the third Five Year Plan for 2008, from the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation and the Ministry of Health.
Table (16) illustrates financial allocations for women health projects in 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Source of Funding</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Reproductive Health</td>
<td>German Government</td>
<td>$5,852,517</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>YR.11,646,508</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>National Program for Reproductive Health</td>
<td>Foreign (donor unspecified)</td>
<td>YR.165,233 million</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2008-2009</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Reproductive Health project</td>
<td>Government</td>
<td>368,480</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Foreign (donor unspecified)</td>
<td>2,947,840</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Construction of 3 hospitals for motherhood</td>
<td>Government</td>
<td>YR.202,062 million</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and childhood in Hodiedah, Ibb, Dhamar</td>
<td></td>
<td>2008</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>governorates</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>National Program for Mother and Child Care,</td>
<td>Government</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and Family Planning</td>
<td>Foreign (donor unspecified)</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total YR. 65,330,123


12.10 Women and Health Challenges

The health sector and services are incapable of coping with the growing needs to curb the population growth, given that the use of methods of family planning does not exceed 28 percent of the population. There are also challenges due to poor health facilities, and an insufficient budget allotted for health services that does not exceed 5.2 percent of public budget, in addition to a lack of health awareness among the population, and due to poverty. Women also face numerous health challenges, mainly:

- High maternal mortality rates and a low number of women benefitting from health care services;
- Unequal distribution of health services between urban and rural areas and the inaccessibility to such services;
- Lack of female health workers and technicians, particularly in rural areas;
- Most of female medical staff are employed in gynecological and pediatric specialties while women’s health needs exceed such specialties;
- Poor health information system in general, and in particular, those that are related to gender;
- Lack of gender-based data to monitor the gender gap and assess services provided.

***

Article (13): Socio-Economic Life

13.1. The State’s plans and programs are striving to improve living conditions to all individuals, both males and females, particularly in the low income category. These policies have adopted a mechanism to provide social protection to those in the poor category and to address the reasons for poverty and to alleviate its impacts specifically as regards women, also to enhance markets and improve and sustain human development in general.

13.1.1 Social Safety Networks

The social safety networks were established to mitigate the negative impacts of economic, financial and administrative reforms and protect needy people through the provision of cash assistance, physical and social
infrastructure for deprived areas, and employment and entrepreneur opportunities. This is in addition to providing mechanisms to finance small and micro income generating projects. Females are the major beneficiaries from social safety networks programs as shown in these programs data in the tables below.

**Social Fund for Development (SFD):**

The SDF is operating in the following major areas:

- Community development;
- Institutional support;
- Development of small projects;
- Cultural heritage;
- Combating the rise in the price of food;

The following are the outcomes of these components:

The total number of beneficiaries from SDF projects in 2008 is about 5.291 thousand; 62 percent of them are females, about 3.304 thousand females.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Projects</th>
<th>2007 Females</th>
<th>2007 Males</th>
<th>(%) of Females</th>
<th>2008 Females</th>
<th>2008 Males</th>
<th>(%) of Females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>8.548</td>
<td>9.456</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>1834.5</td>
<td>1.033.3</td>
<td>187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roads</td>
<td>2.368</td>
<td>7.366</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>399.3</td>
<td>403.1</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional Support</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>579</td>
<td>137.2</td>
<td>422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>8.51</td>
<td>9.51</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100.3</td>
<td>99.4</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>5.48</td>
<td>2.63</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>87.6</td>
<td>108.6</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment</td>
<td>5.37</td>
<td>0.38</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>85.3</td>
<td>83.4</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>23.9</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other projects</td>
<td>8.38</td>
<td>6.37</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>98.1</td>
<td>97.5</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>4.1097</strong></td>
<td><strong>1023</strong></td>
<td><strong>107</strong></td>
<td><strong>3.304.1</strong></td>
<td><strong>1.986.4</strong></td>
<td><strong>166</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Social Fund for Development- Report on the State of Women in Yemen 2008*
13.1.2 SFD Credit Program

The SFD provides loans through 11 credit programs that provided loans to 33,554 beneficiaries in 2008, either to finance small or micro enterprises or income generating projects, and women’s share in these loans were 77 percent, indicating that women are the major target of SFD, as they are committed to success and do not risk employing loans in unproductive projects.

Table (18) Number of Borrowers from SFD according to Gender in 2007, 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Females No.</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Males No.</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Total No.</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>23,700</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>6,891</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>29,591</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>25,689</td>
<td>76.6</td>
<td>7,865</td>
<td>23.4</td>
<td>33,554</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Table (19) Number of Borrowers from SFD according to Gender in 2007, 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Details</th>
<th>No. of Borrowers in 2007</th>
<th>No. of Borrowers as of September 2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Females</td>
<td>Males</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Borrowers from all Credit Programs</td>
<td>23070</td>
<td>6891</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

13.1.3 Employment Opportunities

The employment opportunities provided by SDF projects until 2008 is estimated at 7,150,674 working days. That is equal to about 19.6 thousand laborers for one year, 99 percent were for males, mainly in education, environment, and roads projects, and for females in combating the rise in the price of food, and health and institutional support projects. However all opportunities provided for females are equal to jobs for 243 women for one year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Employment Opportunities</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Females</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>243</td>
<td>1.25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Social Fund for Development

13.1.4 Public Works Project

PWP provides employment opportunities by developing basic infrastructure. 283 projects were implemented in 2008. Half of them were in the education sector and one third in the agriculture sector. In 2008, 672 thousand persons benefited from these projects and 55 percent were females. PWP projects have provided about 43 thousand job opportunities in one month; all were for men.
### Table (21) Number of Beneficiaries from PWP Projects according to Gender in 2007, 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Beneficiaries in 2007</th>
<th>Beneficiaries in 2008</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Females</td>
<td>Males</td>
<td>% of Females</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>192.006</td>
<td>157.096</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>169.189</td>
<td>144.124</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roads Construction</td>
<td>451.21</td>
<td>35.452</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>42.465</td>
<td>7.494</td>
<td>567</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>20.794</td>
<td>25.415</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Affairs</td>
<td>37.325</td>
<td>40.113</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>519.987</td>
<td>42.1487</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


### 13.1.5 Employment opportunities provided by the PWP

PWP provided a number of jobs for the males in 2007-2008.

**Table (22) Number of Jobs Provided by PWP in 2007-2008**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Beneficiaries man/ month</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>86.361</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>43.209</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Rate of annual decline 50%*

13.1.6 Social Welfare Fund (SWF)

This Fund aims at providing social assistance and support to poor families and individuals to improve their living conditions, provided that they do not have other sources of income. The numbers of beneficiaries from the Fund were: 943, 686- 952, 505- and 1,042,109 in the years 2006, 2007 and 2008 respectively. Females represent 47 percent of the cases that receive financial assistance from the Fund. The Fund also implemented training sessions for the beneficiaries to develop their professional skills; this included 1401 persons in 2008, and 36 percent of them were females.

Small Industries and Enterprises Financing Fund:

Small enterprises are one of the major sectors that are expected to alleviate poverty through the employment opportunities they provide. This Fund also provides loan facilities for both sexes.

Table (23) Number of Beneficiaries from SIEFF Loans according to Gender in 2006-2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>1.121</td>
<td>1.326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>1.762</td>
<td>1.936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>1.306</td>
<td>1.381</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


13.1.7 Al-amal Bank for small credits

This Bank opened in late 2008 the first of its kind at the national and regional levels in order to provide a variety of financial services and sustainable small-scale entrepreneurs who can not obtain such services from the banking sector.

It aims to improve the economic and social conditions of families with low and limited incomes, and especially female entrepreneurs. The Bank has 4 branches in the capital and aspires to expand to 40 branches in order to reach all urban and rural areas.

There was no information on the number of customers benefiting from the services provided by the Bank classified by gender.
13.1.8 National Program for Productive Households

The training centers of the Community Development and Productive Households program reached 67 centers in 2006 distributed rural and urban areas, and number of female beneficiaries from these training sessions reached 6700 women. In 2008, 8 new centers were opened in Sana'a municipality, Sana'a, Al-Baidha, Raima, Taiz, Ibb and Hajjah governorates, totaling to 75 centers, and the number of female graduates reached 3223 graduates in 2008.

13.2 Sports and Cultural Life

The state is encouraging women’s involvement in recreational and professional activities and strives to provide an environment conducive to women's creativity and abilities so that they can flourish and prosper. Towards that end, the Women General Directorate at the Ministry of Youth and Sports was established in 2003 to achieve the following objectives:

- To develop female youth cadres qualified to plan, organize and implement projects (in the fields of management, training and refereeing).
- To upgrade women’s sports;
- To encourage women’s involvement in sports and youth institutions;
- To draft strategies on women and women’s development programs and projects at the Ministry of Youth and Sports and in the annual budget;
- To promote moderate spiritual (religious) and national values among future mothers, and discourage extremism and fanaticism;
- To establish infrastructure for women sports (institutes, clubs, facilities, schools, closed halls, playgrounds, sport equipments);
- Develop women training skills.

Major resolutions enacted in favor of women on sports:

a. To serve in sports’ elections at 13 sports associations in charge of women’s sports.
b. To appoint women to the general assembly of the Olympic Committee to represent 20 percent of its members;
c. Women’s election to the Board of Directors of the Olympic Committee at a 20 percent rate;
d. To establish the General Association for Women Sports in 2006;

Women achievements in sports in 2006-2008:

1- Women’s tournaments in 12 governorates, in which 470 women participated;
2- Tournaments held at schools in 11 governorates, in which 725 women participated;
3- Women’s cultural competitions held in clubs;
4- National women’s sports forums that were attended by 350 female participants;
5- Training sessions that targeted 175 female participants;
6- National tournaments in various fields;

13.3. Cultural Life

Yemeni women participate in all aspects of cultural life, despite the poor level of support to women in senior posts at the Ministry of Culture, where there is one woman at the post of deputy minister for the public arts and theatre sector, two women at the level of director general, and one woman as deputy director general. Women also participate in the cultural weeks abroad and contribute to creative activities such as poetry, story writing, dancing, and folklore. The Ministry also encourages women and purchases their handicrafts products at good prices, defends female artists’s (singers) intellectual property rights by concluding contracts with the producers to avoid exploitation, and sponsors plastic art exhibitions for many Yemen female artists.
Challenges

- Geographic obstacles such as the country’s rugged topography of the country that hinders implementation of sustainable projects at rural areas;
- Limited resources as compared to the needs and demands of local communities;
- Lack of accurate surveys on poverty and underdeveloped regions;
- Lack of modern training methods.

Article 14: The Rural Women

The General Census of the Population in 2004 revealed that population was 19,685,161. Most of the inhabitants, approximately 73.5 percent, live in rural areas and comprise about 54 percent of the total workforce, earning their livings from agriculture activities.

Agriculture products represent 17.6 percent of the total GNP, with women bearing the burden of agriculture, especially in animal husbandry and growing vegetables. However rural women’s efforts are widely unrecognized. Most of rural households are headed by females due to the migration of males to urban areas.

**The government’s inclusion of rural women in development policies is as follows:**
- In formulating rural development policies and strategies;
- In planning and implementing agricultural programs and projects;
- Encouragement of women to increase agriculture production through loan facilities and marketing services;
- Provision of nutrition needs and alleviation of poverty in rural areas;
- Development of women’s agriculture extension services (outreach) focusing on income generating projects;
- Encouragement of women to obtain and foster livestock through traditional practices in cooperative societies, and encouragement of rain-irrigated agriculture.

The General Directorate for the Rural Women’s Development in the Ministry of Agriculture, together with its governorate branches, implemented the above points to empower rural women through the following:

1- Raised public awareness of the importance of women’s contribution in agriculture.
2- Increased women’s capacities to boost their agricultural output and enhance their livelihood.
3- Trained 1604 women in different fields.

Table (24) Projects Implemented for Rural Women by the Ministry of Agriculture

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>No. of Beneficiaries</th>
<th>Funding country</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural Women’s Skills Development in Gahran and Al-Hada districts Dhamar governorates</td>
<td>April 2008- March 2009</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>$45 thousand</td>
<td>The project was implemented for 8 months as the funding was delayed in Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Women’s Support (breeding goats and sheep) in various districts in the Lahej governorate</td>
<td>January 2005-Dec. 2008</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>France Yemen</td>
<td>YR.14.150.350</td>
<td>Implementation delayed to 2007 due to bureaucracy and administrative changes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Ministry of Agriculture

In addition to the above, the WNC has conducted a study on animal breeding (cows and goats), which resulted in the reactivation of the project in 6 governorates (Aden, Lahej, Hodeidah, Abyan, Taiz and Ibb) as of 2009.
14.1 Exhibitions

The General Directorate of Rural Women arranges local exhibitions to market rural women’s products. The GD participated in many exhibitions during 2006-2008, such as:
- Union Day, which is an exhibition in the Ibb governorate that takes place on 22 May;
- Exhibition of the first National Economic Forum in Sana'a;
- Exhibition on the occasion of World Food Day and Rural Women, which is an annual occasion;
- Pomegranate Exhibition in Sa'ada governorate.

The Directorate of Women in the Agricultural Cooperative Union has a small exhibition corner to market women’s products in various associations.

14.2 Cooperative Associations

The Cooperative Associations are spread in many villages and towns and the Agricultural Cooperative Union is one of the most important ones. It aims to enhance the performance of cooperatives and agricultural development to assist government efforts in economic advancement. The government notes the major role that cooperatives play in public partnership in development, hand in hand with government efforts, and in other economic sectors.

The Cooperatives sector also strives to promote the role of rural women as major partners in agriculture development, and who contribute actively in increasing agriculture and animal production. Many rural women were trained in the food industry to improve their living conditions. Their activities include:
- The fourth conference of Cooperative Associations was convened during 13-15 of August 2007;
- The Cooperatives Associations held its election, in which 272 societies participated, including 9 women societies;
- The Agricultural Cooperatives Association organized 25 training sessions including TOT sessions on food industry for rural women at 10 governorates for 25 women societies;
- 1500 rural women were trained on producing pickles, tomato paste, jam, and cheeses;
- 20 leaders of cooperatives were trained in management and planning;
- The coordination with the Agriculture and Fishery Fund to reestablish the animal breeding project. The Cooperative Union will implement the project in 5 governorates (Sana'a, Al-Baidha, Hajjah, Al-Dhalae and Seyoun).

14.3 Cooperatives Agriculture Investment Projects:

The Union and the cooperative association implemented a number of agriculture production projects related to the storage, preservation and processing of products, and the marketing of these products locally and externally through modern means during 2006-2008. These activities were implemented in various places as follows:
- Azzan collaborative Agriculture Center project for the conservation and preparation of fruits and vegetables, for the local marketing of an annual production capacity of 20,000 tons.
- Safa cooperative factory for the production of milk and juice – Dhaban – (Sana'a City) with an annual production capacity of 90 thousand and more.
- Fath Al-Rahman Farm for the breeding and fattening of sheep Al-Wazaeeya (Taiz) with 300 heads.
- Almrsa Farm for the breeding and fattening sheep - Harib (Dhamar) with 150 heads.

Women's contribution to the projects mentioned above was not clearly specified in accordance to gender classification.

14.4 Health Care:

The Ministry of Health and Population exerted considerable efforts to expand health care services to all segments of society in urban and rural areas. These services remain inadequate as regards targeting rural women due to:
A lack of financial resources.
- The growth in population;
- The dispersion of the population in remote areas with difficult terrain;
- The scarcity of health centers in most towns where rural women are still in need of their services due to chronic diseases and epidemiological spread;
- The high cost of treatment which women cannot afford.

The most common diseases from which rural women continue to suffer are the following:
- Malaria, approximately 43%.
- Diabetes, 7.5%.
- High blood pressure, 14.3%.
- Arthritis, 20.7%.
- Cancer, 1.0%.
- Tuberculosis (TB), 2.3%.
- Leprosy, 0.1%.
- Heart disease, 6.0%.
- Respiratory diseases, 7.8%.
- Stomach ulcers, 12.2%.
- Chronic kidney disease, 5.4%.
- Other diseases, 14.1%.

As regards family planning, the use of contraception is low, despite its availability in all health centers in rural and urban areas. Cultural customs hampers its use as planned, owing to the lack of awareness and educational programs in this aspect.

14.5 Lending Agencies:

There are a number of lending agencies which provide soft loans to all. Rural women benefit from these loans either through associations or banks. Some of these who provide such loans are:

1. (Bank of Credit and Agricultural Cooperation) The Number of female beneficiaries from the Bank in 2006-2009 reached 1254 women. They received a total of YR.264,930,484.

2. (Agriculture and Fishery Products Fund) This fund provided funding for the following projects:
   - In 2006 (182), projects in irrigation, irrigation facilities and agriculture.
   - In 2007, Extension Fields project which is still operative;
   - In 2007, a Bee Development project was funded and rural women were included with 5 families at the beginning, which increased to 20 families in 2009.

14.6 Obstacles that faces rural women:

- The spread of illiteracy.
- The lack of financial funding to implement activities in rural areas;
- Inadequate public services, such as water, electricity, and transportation, at many villages;
- The low number of workers at paid labor in the agriculture sector;
- Poor marketing channels for rural women’s products, and a lack of capital;
- A lack of vision when establishing cooperative associations, and lack of "know-how" to organize and manage development projects.
- Conflicts and the overlapping of responsibilities between organizations.

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Part Four

Articles 15 -16

Article 15: Equality between men and women before the law

The Civil Law No.14 of 2002 stipulated a number of general provisions dealing with civil issues on the basis of Islamic Sharia'. These have to do with a concern for peoples' interests, deterring of evil, facilitating their dealings and avoiding incurring them with what they cannot afford or cause them hardships (article 3). The Law also provided for:

15.1 General Provisions

Article (37): The personality of a human being begins with his/her birth, and ends with his/her death. Nonetheless the fetus has rights considered by the law.

Article (46): No one person may concede his or her own civil rights, or amend their provisions, also no one person may concede his or her personal freedom.

Article (47): Any individual who has been subjected to an illegitimate violation of his/her personal rights may demand cessation of such an assault and claim compensation for the damages he/she incurred.

Article (48): Any individual whose identity was used without justification was by others or who was subjected to impersonation by others unrightfully, may demand cessation of such violation and claim compensation for the damages he/she incurred;

15.1.1 Civil Rights

Article (49): Two types of Civil Rights:

1- The civil rights of a person are granted from the date of his or her birth.
2- The performance of civil rights which an individual exercises granted by law.

Article (88): Any institution has the right to enjoy all rights, unless those relevant to the nature of a human being. It may have:

1- Independent financial liability;
2- Civil rights to the extent of the law;
3- The right to file lawsuits;
4- An independent household according to what is provided for in the law;
5- Proxies that express his/her will and represent him/her in litigation.

15.1.2 Ownership

Article (1154): The owner of an object, within the limits of the law, has the right to benefit from it, use it, exploit it or dispose of it.

Article (1155): The owner of an object owns each and every part of it and any element of it.

Article (1159): No one shall deprive an individual from his/her possessions, unless as approved by the legitimate law, and through the means provided for in the law and in lieu of fair compensation.

Article 16: Family and Marriage Law

Yemeni Personal Stauts Law includes all legislative provisions having to do with matrimony, the marriage contract, divorce, relationship kith and kin, grants, wills and inheritance and others.
Table (25) Legal Articles on Women that the Cabinet has approved in session No. 31 on 7 August 2007, and under the consideration of Sharia' Rules Legalization Committee in the Parliament

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Proposed text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Cabinet resolution No.248 of 2007 on the approval of proposed amendments to some of Personal Affairs Law No.20 of 1992 Amendments: Article (7), adding clause (6): 1. The marriage contract shall be in one place. 2. The nominal approval of marriage by the proxy of the contracted female, to a competent, marriageable male, or by his delegation or from his proxy. 3. acceptance of marriage before refusal from a competent marriageable (not Mahram) male or his legal proxy or an individual whom he delegates; 4. The identification of both the husband and wife upon contracting the marriage by a name or a nickname or a sign that distinguish them from others. 5. Acceptance and approval of marriage shall be accomplished simultaneously, and any condition that is not related to legitimate purpose for either member of the couple or which contradicts the marriage contract, shall be invalidated. 6. Both members of the couple shall be free of marriage impedances as mentioned in section three of this chapter. Article (11): A marriage contract between insane persons shall not be concluded. Article (12): The husband has the right to polygamy, which is limited to four wives, provided that: 1. He has the ability to treat them fairly, otherwise he shall marry one only. 2. He has the ability to sustain his wives. 3. He notifies the new wife that he is married. 4. He notifies his previous wife/wives that he intends to marry. If he fails to notify them, the previous wife/wives have the right to claim divorce or invalidate the contract for the damage caused. Article (14) The one who is entrusted with contracting the marriage, the husband, and the custodian of the wife, shall register the marriage contract with the concerned authority within one month. Any of the aforementioned persons shall stand for others when registering the contract, also the marriage contract shall include information on couples’ ages, number of ID cards – if available – amount of immediate and postponed dowry. Article (76): The return of a wife shall be expressed explicitly with the presence of two witnesses. Article (87); period of Idda (period of waiting) for the finalization of divorce, has six rules: 1. She has no possibility of returning to the same husband; 2. She has no right to inheritance; 3. She is allowed to go outside without permission; 4. She is not entitled to a house; 5. She has the right to receive alimony 6. He has permission to marry a woman who was not allowed to him during his marriage. Article (262): In the instance of the nonexistence of a custodian, the mother shall be the custodian for her children and their inherited money following their father’s death. Following the mother’s death the trustee shall take charge, when the inherited died without making a will, the father takes charge, then the trustee that he assigns, then the grandfather, then the trustee that he assigns, then the judge. Added article (7 repeated): each member of the engaged or contracted couple may undergo a medical examination to ensure that they are free from any inherited or contagious diseases;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There were addition proposed articles to this law which are as follows: Article ( ): The divorcee who nurses a child has the right to stay at the marital home with her child, unless her ex-husband provided her with alternative adequate housing. When the nursing period is over, or the divorcee remarried, the ex-husband may restore his house. Article ( ). When a husband divorces his wife, and the judge concludes that such divorce is an arbitrary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
one, and that the wife will be impoverished by this action, the judge may rule in her favor with a compensation that is equal to one year alimony that is provided to her kind, in addition to Idda alimony. The judge may order whole or installment payment of such compensation, according to the situation;

Article (): The husband may not return to his divorcee, if he intends to cause her damage.

Article (): Intention to return to a divorced wife shall be documented by the concerned authority.

Article (): A marriage shall not be contracted when the age difference between the two members of the couple exceeds twenty years, unless the women age is thirty five years or older.

Article (): The child born to a man who forced a woman to have sexual intercourse with him, or raped her after marriage, shall be of the lineage of the said man;

Article (): The lineage of a child born within undocumented marriage shall proven;

Article (): Personal affairs lawsuits shall be considered as urgent cases;

a. The one who divorces shall document divorce declaration with the concerned authority;

b. The concerned documenter shall announce the divorce to the divorcee within seven days from the date of documenting the divorce declaration, and shall deliver to her a copy of the divorce certificate;

Source: Legal Department, WNC

16.1 Minimum Age of Marriage

The Parliament in the first quarter of 2009 approved specifying the minimum age of marriage at 17 years for both girls and boys. Some of the members requested further debating this resolution and no further actions has been taken regarding it thus far, as of the writing of this report.

The Personal Stauts Law includs articles which provide rights for women the following articles:

- Article (10); Any marriage contract which was forced either on the husband or wife is null and void.

- Article (23): Women’s consent to marriage is a precondition; however, silence signifies the approval of the virgin. A previously married woman (Al-Thayyeb) shall spell her approval out.

- Article (30): Any marriage which meets the conditions stipulated above is a lawful marriage, even if it is not followed by copulation, and all consequences of marriage shall apply therein, unless it is suspended in reality. Marriage is considered suspended before consent is secured by the one who has such right. If consent is acquired, marriage consequences shall apply from the moment of the contract. However symbolic suspension applies on the marriage contract concluded for a minor or an insane person, at such instance marriage consequences shall be in effect as of the contracting moment, yet the contracted couple may invalidate such contract when reaching adolescence age or when the insane recovers;

- Article (41): The husband shall:

  1. Provide legitimate and adequate housing that he can afford, to be as he pleases;
  2. Provide expenses and garments that he can afford to offer her, according to his taste;
  3. To be fair with her and with his all other wives, if the husband is married to more than one wife;
  4. Refrain from touching his wife’s own properties;
  5. Refrain from causing her physical or moral damage.

16.2 Divorce and Khulu

- Article (47): Either the husband or wife may claim divorce if he/she finds a repellent deficit, whether such deficit exists prior to marriage or occurred after marriage. Common deficits for husband and wife are insanity, albinism and leprosy. Deficits sometimes found in the wife are related to defects in women’s reproductive system and other women’s conditions, and in the husband these are related to impotency, and infection with tuberculosis. The right to divorce is nullified if such deficits are accepted explicitly or implicitly, except in instances of insanity or leprosy and other contagious incurable diseases, whereas the
right is preserved even if acceptance was expressed, and such deficit/s is proved either by confession or by medical report from specialized physicians.

- Article (48): Eligibility is based on religion and behavior, and on mutual consent. However, either member of the couple may file for divorce due to lack of eligibility.

- Article (54): If the woman claims divorce out of hatred of husband, the judge must examine the reason. If proved to be true, he shall assign an arbitrator from both the wife’s and husband’s families to mediate between the couple, otherwise he shall order the husband to divorce. If he refuses, the judge shall rule with Khulu (disassociation of husband and wife) and the wife shall refund the dowry she received.

- Article (55): If the wife claims a divorce for the reason that the husband is addicted to alcohol or drugs, and such is proved, the court shall rule with divorce and the dowry shall not be refunded.

- Article (72): Khulu is disassociation of a couple (husband and wife) in lieu of compensation by the wife, or by others, being money or other interest even if it is not specified.

- Article (73): Khulu is concluded with both the husband’s and wife’s consent, or by an indicator such as a contract or a specific condition, and what is conditioned for divorce is conditioned for Khulu, and the compensation shall be at wife’s possession.

### 16.3 Custody

- Article (141): The mother is the one most entitled to be her child’s custodian, provided that her competence for custody is proved, and she can not drop such right unless the child has accepted nursing (breastfeeding) from another mother, otherwise she will be forced, whereas the right here is the child’s. Her new husband shall not prevent her from breastfeeding her child where there is no substitute. Any misconduct on her part shall not deter her right to custody of her child, until the infant reaches his or her fifth year of age.

- Article (142): In the case of the death of the mother, or the invalidation of her right to custody, such right shall be transferred to her mother, then to her sisters, then to the Muslim father, then to the father’s mother, then to the mother of the maternal grandfather, then to the sisters, then to the maternal aunts’ daughters, then to the sisters’ daughters, then to the brothers’ daughters, then to the paternal aunts, then to their daughters, then to the paternal uncle’s daughters, then to the father’s aunts, then to their daughters, then to the father’s uncles daughters. When females do not exist, custody shall be transferred to the closest unmarriageable (mahram) male relative, if these do not exist, then the closest unmarriageable female relatives, if these do not exist, then the marriageable clan members, if these do not exist, then to the unmarriageable female relatives. At each level of the relationship the one who has two links of relationship shall have priority over the one who has one. Also the mother’s relatives have priority over the father’s relatives. If both are at the same level, the custody shall be granted to the best, if both are equal, they shall be referred to the judge who has the right to disregard the order of priority of the custodians, in the best interest of the child;

- Article (148): When the child (male or female) is grown up and can decide on his own he/she shall choose between his father or mother in the instance of their disagreement, however if those who have the right of custody –apart from the father and mother – have a dispute regarding the custody of the child, the judge may choose in the best interest of the child following consultation with him/her.

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CEDAW Committee Recommendations

Reference to these recommendations was made earlier in the methodology of this report. Some were incorporated in the articles 1-16. Furthermore, it is worthwhile to refer to other recommendations where actions have been made. These are as follows:

1. Refugees

Yemen faces great challenges because of its geographic location which receives migrants and refugees, particularly from the Horn of Africa. In 2008, more than 50 thousand refugees arrived to Yemen’s coasts, representing a 70 percent increase from the previous year. These mounting numbers represent social and economic pressures over the already limited resources of the country. Despite the scarce and limited resources, the state has shouldered its humane responsibilities and drew up plans, programs and services to accommodate these migrants in coordination with UNHCR and other relevant international organizations. No data was available suggesting that the refugees faced violence of any sort, including sexual violence. As for deportation, the authority implements a mechanism in coordination with other actors.

The draft of the Refugee Act was distributed in mid 2009 to the relevant authorities for their observatory remarks and will be finalized upon completion of receipt of these remarks. The following table shows the numbers of refugees:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Somali</td>
<td>90,687</td>
<td>41,588</td>
<td>132,275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopian</td>
<td>1,156</td>
<td>999</td>
<td>2,155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eritrean</td>
<td>363</td>
<td>241</td>
<td>604</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraqis</td>
<td>2,449</td>
<td>1,896</td>
<td>4,345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>433</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>679</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>95,088</td>
<td>45,060</td>
<td>140,148</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.1 Volunteer Repatriation of Refugees:

In 2008, 225 refugees returned voluntarily to their home country: 183 Iraqis, 40 Somalis, 1 Eritrean and 1 Sudanese. This data was not gender-classified.
1.2 Re-Located Refugees

Data was available indicating that 407 refugees were re-located to other countries in 2008 but was not gender classified as indicated in the following table.

Table (29) Number of Relocated Refugees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Uzbek</th>
<th>Eritrean</th>
<th>Iraqis</th>
<th>Ethiopian</th>
<th>Somalies</th>
<th>Destination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Norway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Finland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>351</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.3 Displaced:

Due to the Sa'ada conflict about 70 thousand people were displaced, according to the available data, which was not gender classified.

***
CEDAW Dissemination Mechanisms:

The relevant government mechanisms and NGOs have adopted programs regarding women’s human rights to promote public awareness in this respect, and to empower women's participation in the community within the development process from a human rights perspective. The design of these programs focused on introducing CEDAW and emerged from the significance of this convention as regards the protection of women's rights. Disseminating this convention was enhanced notably at the central and local levels, targeting female and male state and non-state actors, including judiciary, local councils, parliament, Shura Council, political parties, media outlets, lawyers, law enforcement personnel, and CSOs, being concerned partners for awareness raising and assisting in re-reading women’s status according to the CEDAW provisions, and exploring the extent of compliance with the national legislative, constitutional and legal system.

CEDAW is also employed as a reference to consider development processes to improve women’s status as reflected in public policies, plans, strategies, and projects. Such role is played by government mechanisms as represented by WNC, Ministry of Human Rights, beside CSOs mainly: Yemeni Women Union, Sisters’ Arab Forum for Human Rights, Human Rights and Information and Training Center, Islah Charity Society, Girls' Language Center and Female Journalists Media Forum.

Major Programs/Projects Implemented in this respect:

- The WNC has implemented the following activities:
  1- Prepared a national training manual on CEDAW (women human rights), with UN support.
  2- Conducted a number of trainings including the training on preparing CEDAW national reports;
  3- Conducted a number of trainings in gender data analysis;
  4- Data and information collection;
  5- Dissemination of CEDAW provisions in Al-Yemania newspaper, the mouthpiece of WNC;
  6- Published a booklet explaining the convention from an Islamic perspective;
  7- Published a training manual on reproductive health and gender from an Islamic perspective sponsored by JAICA (Japan);
  8- Conducted a number of trainings for mosque preachers on reproductive health and gender from an Islamic perspective in coordination with the Ministry of Endowment and Guidance;
  9- Organized training workshops for the interested institutions, upon their request, on means of implementing CEDAW within the context of these institutions’ plans and policies;
  10- Held meetings to sensitize CEDAW with various political, religious and social leaders.

- Ministry of Justice has published a number of judiciary awareness and instructive booklets in line with CEDAW provisions and introduced national laws included the following issues:
  a. Women, Child and Juveniles Rights in Yemeni Law;
  b. Juvenile Care Law;
  c. Judicial Awareness Series: Judicial Lawsuit;

- Ministry of Human Rights organized trainings and awareness programs on the convention;
  - The Ministry of Endowment and Guidance, conducted a number of trainings for mosque preachers in the area of gender issues in the framework of the CEDAW;
  - The Ministry of Social Affairs, conducted a number of trainings in gender and the CEDAW Convention in the various governorates, which targeted both men and women alike;
  - Production of TV program on the CEDAW presented in Channel One (official);
  - Production of one radio program on the CEDAW presented in Sana'a Broadcasting;
  - Dissemination of CEDAW provisions to media personnel through the workshops and training sessions organized on the convention;
  - Organization of awareness campaigns among university and school students on women’s rights as contained in the convention;
  - UN agencies funded activities related to the convention and recommendations to promote Yemen implementation of the CEDAW provisions;

***
Challenges and Obstacles

The challenges and obstacles were already mentioned in the articles above of this report. These will be highlighted in the following points because of their commonality, despite the exerted efforts to promote women's rights and empower them economically, politically, socially and culturally.

First: Social Factors:

- The social structure of the population, in particular, the tribal structure that is dominated by an androcentric perspective which considers women to an inferior human being. Some of them do not abide by the law and order.
- Diversity of community cultures which reflect a different understanding and acceptance to the convention and commitment to its provisions;
- Presence of certain religious groups that oppose women's rights, although they are aware that such rights are granted by the Islamic Sharia';
- Spread of illiteracy and ignorance among various sectors in the community especially among women;
- Lack of media outreach on women as partners for development;
- The media's focus on women's stereotyped and reproductive role;

Second: Political Factors:

- Marginalization of women issues in political life, for instance the outcomes of the electoral elections of the Parliament and the Local Councils where few numbers reached therein.
- Political and economic reform agenda is generalized, without specifying areas that needs procedural interventions to promote women’s empowerment and the advancement of their status;
- Low pace of political commitment to implement CEDAW, due to the cultural impacts (implications) on the decision-makers;
- The quota system was not approved in spite of women's pressure and the direction of the President to provide 15% of the quota to women in the Parliament.

Third: Economic Factors:

- The spread of poverty and its negative impact on women weakens women’s empowerment. Measures taken to alleviate poverty are not based on the dimensions of poverty feminization;
- Poor resources are provided by the state and the international community to advance women’s issues. When such resources are available, there is a lack of a mechanism for coordination.
References:

- Mid-term Assessment to the Third Five Year Plan 2006-2008.
- Reports by women directorates at various institutions, on WNC request.
- Reports published by:
  - 2008 Report, Ministry of Culture.
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The Report on The level of implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

Hadhramout Governorate

Introduction:

WNC Hadhramout branch had been assigned to prepare the report on the level of implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women for the year 2009, for the period of 2006-2008 in the local governorate, in accordance with international methodology for the preparation of such reports. A team of able staff worked locally and put forth continuous efforts to collect data and statistics, and communicated with the relevant local authority and civil society organizations working on women's issues and human rights.

Although the team did not have any training opportunities on the preparation of such report, yet it has completed it, relying on the experience and knowledge gained and the support of the local authority and follow-up of the WNC branch.

Part One
Articles 1 to 4

Articles 1 to 3

Laws are issued centrally. The role of the governorates is to apply these laws and forward any gaps in their applications. Hadhramout governorate did not propose any modifications or additions to the existing laws with regard to women's issues. It has not registered any imbalances in the application of the laws during the period between the sixth and seventh reports.

Article 4 general and sectoral strategies

Most of the strategies are issued centrally and are implemented at the local level, but there are local strategies which reflect the requirements of the governorates in general and are prepared by governorate officials. Women are involved in this task.

During 2006-2007, two documents regarding development were prepared which identified general objectives regarding the development of the governorate, including the development of women in the areas of economic empowerment. This requires progress in the areas of education, public health and reproductive health, and the expansion of employment opportunities for women and the provision of funding sources, loans and financial facilities and the development of skills and capabilities in the management of small businesses, as well as the expansion of their participation in decision-making positions. These documents included the following:

- Strategy for growth and poverty alleviation Hadhramout Governorate (2007-2015), with the support of GTZ. The component regarding women focused on education, health, labor and economic and political participation.

- The socio-economic development plan for poverty alleviation 2006 - 2010 to achieve various goals towards bettering the socioeconomic circumstances of this community. The most important of these goals are:
  
  1. The development of infrastructure sectors and the expansion of coverage and services.
  2. To increase growth rates in the various fields and raise the contributions of the productive sectors.
  3. To raise the standard of living for citizens and to provide new job opportunities.
  4. To expand basic education with a focus on technical education and vocational training especially for girls in rural areas.
  5. To improve the output of university education, to reflect the needs of the labor market and development.
  6. To provide increasing opportunities for the education and rehabilitation of women in the context of the development of centers for productive families.
**Women with Disabilities:**

The numbers of associations that provide services to women with disabilities were 9 and the numbers of beneficiaries of these services were 1470 including 460 handicapped women.

In 2008, 56 girls with disabilities enrolled in the educational centers of these associations.

A governmental center under the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor was established by the Disabilities Welfare Fund in 2002, and the number of women enrolled was 85. During 2007-2008, there were 244 female beneficiaries from the Fund. In 2007, the first blind woman graduated from Hadhramout University and has subsequently been employed as a supervisor and trainer in the Educational Center for the Blind.

In 2008, the total number of girls with disabilities enrolled in schools and universities reached 38.

During 2007-2008, 448 persons were recipients of health care, and 426 received in-kind assistance.

The Social Fund for Development provided support and teaching aids for 4572 persons, amounting to $136644 dollars.

**Article 5 Cultural and traditional practices that hinder the advancement of women in our community**

Facing the advancement of women in the province of Hadhramout, a variety of obstacles exist which weaken women’s participation in community development. Women are often still considered to be only suitable for domestic work and child-rearing. These obstacles can be summarized as follows:

1. The erroneous insistence that certain customs and traditions are religiously based.
2. The spread of illiteracy.
3. Dropout of girls from education.
4. Limited posts for women in comparison to the number of graduates of secondary and university levels.
5. Weak and limited sources of funding for small-scale projects set for the women.
6. Media discourse and religious conservatives, both of which contribute to negative stereotypes of women.
7. Family traditions regarding women based on culture.

**Article 7 Political and Public Life**

The population of the province of Hadhramout was 1.028.556, according to the results of population census in 2004. The numbers of males were 530.184 i.e. 52.6%, and the number of females were 498,372 i.e. 48.4%.

All indicators confirm that in spite of the aforementioned social constraints, there is a growing movement towards women’s participation as voters and candidates in all elections (presidential, parliamentary, and local). This strengthens the call for a quota system to ensure women's access to decision-making positions in all the key organs in the governorate.

The number of women registered in the election records in 2006 reached 130724, or approximately 45%.

There were no female candidates for the governorate’s local county in 2006.

14 female candidates registered for the districts’ local councils, 5 candidates withdrew and 3 won the election.

The Executive Governorate Council is comprised of the directors general of all offices of the ministries. Almost all these directors are men who meet regularly to review the process of implementation. Three women attend such meetings are: the Director of Women's Development Department, the Director of WNC's Branch, and the Director of Literacy.

Seven departments dealing with women issues were established in 7 offices.

The WNC Branch Director participated in the committee of preparing plans and budgets since 2007.
7.1 The Branch of WNC:
The Branch was able to implement with its paucity of resources a number of activities. These include:

- The construction of a building which was constructed and equipped by support of Social Development Fund. This is the first headquarters at the local level.
- Resolutions of the local authority for women's development as follows:
  - Economic Theme: a team of experts was formed to implement the project of "supporting economic opportunities for women" funded by Oxfam.
  - Education Theme: a team of experts was formed to implement the project of good governance supported by Oxfam.
- The implementation of women's initial participation in a project identifying development needs. This took place with the involvement of 60 females in two districts, representing different sectors for the preparation of development plans and the participation of members of the local council in 2008, with the support of UNFPA.
- The training of members of the local authority from two districts, in the development of plans from a gender perspective, with the support of UNFPA.
- The implementation of the first field study of its kind at the local level on the employment of women in the public and private realms. This was the first statistical document which gathered data on the status of women, with funding from Oxfam.

7.2 Civil Society Organizations
26 women’s civil society organizations work in various fields, with 1407 members.
Within the General Federation of the Trade Unions Branch, which elects its leadership, 7 women are in senior position in its 13 sub-branches, as compared to 102 males.

Article 10 Education
Education is one of the most important sectors of human development. As it is the essential foundation for overall development, efforts are continuing to increase the pace of the quantity and quality of education in the province. However, pre-school education is still limited and is concentrated in the major cities of the county.

10.1 Kindergarten
The number of kindergartens was 16 in 2006 and 18 in 2008. 4281 boys and girls were enrolled in 2006 and 4954 in 2008 with an increase of 15%.
The number of teachers witnessed also an increase as 210 were employed in 2006 and rose to 279 in 2008.
The increase in pre-school enrollment in the cities indicates the increased enrollment of women in the labor market which require these services.
There were no data disaggregated by gender.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Index</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of kindergartens</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children</td>
<td>4,281</td>
<td>3,842</td>
<td>4,954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of teachers</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>279</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Statistical Department – Hadhramout*
10.2 Literacy and Adult Education

The Centers for such kind of education has increased and so also the enrollment of women. The following table shows the number of centers and enrollment of males and females during the period of 2006 - 2008.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table No. (2)</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Years</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literacy Centers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>476</td>
<td>442</td>
<td>507</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>2.846</td>
<td>3.871</td>
<td>4.451</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3.322</td>
<td>4.313</td>
<td>4.958</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Annual increase  13  30  15

Source: The Report on Sustainable Development in Hadhramout
10.3 Basic Education

The total enrollment in basic education in the academic year of 2005-2006, numbered 206,573 students, out of which 85,686 were females, or approximately 41%. Enrollment increased during 2007-2008, to reach 231,977 persons, out of which 98,907 were females, or approximately 43%. It is worth noting that the gap between males and females is still in favor of males, while the number of teachers for the academic year 2007-2008 reached 10,561, including 2,794 females, or approximately 26%. The difference between the figures for males and females reflects the primary causes of this gap, which represents the interest of males in the educational process, who have created this situation. The enrollment of girls in basic education is low, especially in rural areas.

There were 265 school principals, out of which 24 were females, or approximately 9%, and 331 deputies, of which 57 were females, or approximately 17%.

10.4 Secondary education

The number of children who were enrolled at the secondary level reached 21,751 including 6,329 females, approximately 29%, in 2007-2008.

The lack of demand for girls in secondary education can be explained by the following reasons:

1. The output of girls’ basic education is especially low in rural schools.
2. The lack of female teachers.
3. The lack of secondary schools in rural areas.
4. Teachers of secondary education do not exist in rural areas.
5. Early marriage.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>% of Females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The number of principals</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of vice-principals</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of inspectors</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table No. (3) Indicates the number of teaching staff in Secondary schools in 2007-2008

![Number of teaching staff in secondary education sector](image)
10.5 Technical education and vocational training

Women began to join technical education centers to acquire skills to qualify for a job in the labor market. A slight increase in women, as compared with the increase in the number of males enrolled in this area, is noted in the following table.

10.5.1 Technical Education

Table No. (4) Shows the students enrolled in technical education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>(% of Females)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005 - 2006</td>
<td>376</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007 - 2008</td>
<td>516</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10.5.2 Vocational Training

Table No. (5) Shows the students enrolled in vocational education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>(% of Females)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005 - 2006</td>
<td>567</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007 - 2008</td>
<td>813</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Twenty training courses in the areas of computer and accounting, which benefited 472 women, were implemented by the Office of the Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training during 2006 – 2008.

10.6 Higher Education

There are two universities: one public (Hadramout University), and the other private (Al-Ahqaf). Both are located in the capital of the governorate.

The number of girls enrolled in the government university was 5,983, or approximately 31%, out of 19,150 boys from 2005 to 2008.

29 girls obtained financial support for Higher Studies, or approximately 17% of the 173 boys in 2007 -2008.

There are several reasons obstructing girls from continuing in higher education. The most important ones include:

1. The inability of some families to cover the cost of higher education.
2. The phenomenon of early marriage, the desire of families to see their daughters settled, and to ease the burden of dependency.
3. The social image of higher education as being unimportant for women.
4. The universities are in the cities which limits the mobility of the girls in rural areas.
5. No incentives or facilities are provided for girls wishing to enroll in higher education such as housing, financial aid and supervision.

Women joined the government university teaching staff. There is slight increase in their employment as indicated in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>% of Females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006 - 2007</td>
<td>518</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>13.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007 - 2008</td>
<td>541</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>14.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 - 2009</td>
<td>566</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The private University Ahqaf had 1183 students enrolled during the academic year 2007-2008, from which 257 were girls, i.e. 22%. The university provides furnished accommodations for students coming from outside the capital of the governorate.
The total teaching staff of the university for the same academic year was 91 out of which 9 were females, or approximately 10%.

**Article 11 Labor**

The data which was available from the Office of the Ministry of Civil Service and Insurance indicated that the number of female employees in the administrative local authority reached 3989, or approximately 22% of the total number of employees (17,683). Most of these women work in the sectors of education (30%) and health (26.3%). These are the sectors in which it is socially acceptable for women to participate. The rate of female employment does not reflect equal opportunities between men and women. The gap between the two remains significant.

The table below indicates the gradual reduction of jobs in the years 2007 – 2008, which has dropped from 646 in 2007 to 492 in 2008. The total number of positions for females has fallen from 141 posts to 119 posts at a rate of 16%.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>The Approved Jobs</th>
<th>% of Females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Males</td>
<td>Females</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>505</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>373</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The General Department for Working Women in the Office of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor conducted a number of training programs in coordination with a number of relevant authorities in management, leadership, negotiation and networking. This targeted 900 women working in the fields of agriculture, education and health within the Working Women Strategy (2001-2011). A legal awareness program was also implemented for 1522 workers, including 1022 women.

**Women in the Informal Sector**

Women's work is concentrated in this sector in small-scale enterprises, mostly in cosmetics and hairdressing, the sewing and embroidery industry, incense and the sale of vegetables.

In the rural areas women work in agriculture and raising animals without getting paid. Women face difficulties in expanding their participation in the economic system because of customs, traditions and illiteracy.
**Article (12) Health**

There were minor developments in health and curative services provided to local communities. The rate of coverage in basic health services has increased to 63% in 2008 compared to 61% in 2007.

The following data indicate the development of health services in the years 2007-2008:

- The numbers of hospitals were 22 in 2008 compared to 16 in 2007.
- The numbers of health centers were 50 in 2008 compared to 45 in 2007.
- The numbers of health units were 276 in 2008 compared to 267 in 2007. 39% of these units provided reproductive health services.
- The number of maternity and childhood centers reached 41 centers. The reproductive health services and family planning reached 43 facilities.
- The number of midwives increased from 330 in 2007 to 352 in 2008.
- The total number of beneficiaries of family planning services reached 38,531. The number of persons using contraceptives rose from 48,052 in 2007 to 60,091 in 2008.

**Infant and Child Mortality**

The total number of infant mortalities in 2008 was 161.

**HIV**

The number of HIV cases registered in 2007 was 70, out of which 20 were females and 50 males. Out of this, 39 males and 17 females were from Yemen, and 14 were foreigners.

**Article 13 Women and the economy**

Women’s economic activities varied in different fields including businesses and hotels. The latter was considered one of the areas in which women rarely participated. Most important indicators of women's participation were:

1. Registration of businesswomen;
2. Growing demand for handicrafts produced by women;
3. Emergence of a number of women's groups:
   - Sports and cultural forums;
   - Economic forums;
   - Social forum;
   - Commercial forum;
4. Growth rate of employment among women;
5. Decline of illiteracy rates among women;
6. Growth rate of women’s land ownership;
7. Increased women’s participation nationally, locally and externally in various economic, cultural, social and political events;
8. A marginal increase of women graduates from universities and professional institutes;
9. An increased rate of women’s enrollment in training programs and rehabilitation internally and externally;
10. A slight increase in the rate of participation rate of women in governing bodies;
11. An increase in the rate of women’s participation in the private sector;
12. An increase in the rate of loans granted to women;
13. An increase in the rate of investment licenses granted to women;
14. The high rate of women's participation in the following:
   - Hotel management;
   - Restaurant management;
   - Management of the media;
   - Representation of international organizations;
- Representation in local councils;
- Participation in political parties;
15. Rise in the number of vehicles owned and driven by women;
16. Rise in the rate of women ownership of the industrial and commercial properties and housing;
17. High share of women in the sales and purchase of real estate and land.

13.1 Banking Activity

This sector witnessed a remarkable development during the years (2006 / 2007 / 2008) in the volume of loans and facilities. (31) Women benefited from these loans and facilities for agricultural purposes and other investments in the year 2008 with an increase of (238%) as compared to the year 2006 which had 13 women.

13.2 Social Fund for Development

This fund is one of the components of the social safety net. It finances aspects of social development to alleviate the burden on the state and assists in the delivery of some services to the inhabitants of various regions and villages, creating job opportunities through the implementation of many projects. The Fund implemented 146 projects during the period of 2006-2008 in the areas of education, health, water and training. It contributed during this period to increase the number of women beneficiaries to 77,306 compared to 85,549 male.

13.3 Public Works Project

This project implemented the objectives and activities related to social safety net during the past years (2006-2008). At the end of 2008 the total number of projects implemented was 59.

13.4 Social Welfare Fund

This fund focuses on the area of poverty alleviation especially for families with limited income. The number of beneficiaries has increased from 43,038 in 2005 to 65,253 at the end of 2008, of which 30,860 were women.

13.5 Fund Industry and Smaller Enterprises

This is one of the branches of the social security network. The Fund implemented a number of activities in industrial and commercial projects with a total of 758 by the end of 2008. The number of beneficiaries from the loans was 657, 34 of which were for females.

Article 14 Women in Rural Areas:

The Agriculture Office plays an educational role and in training women in rural areas to raise their economic circumstances. These include:
- Advocacy on the negative impact of malnutrition on pregnant women and their unborn children.
- Home economics.
- Dangers and environmental hazards.
- Risks of early, late and repeated pregnancy.
- The role of educated women in development.
- Advocacy on contraceptives.
- Health care and access to veterinary care for livestock.
- Advocacy and lobbying.
References:

- Economic and Social Development Plan for the Alleviation of Poverty 2006 - 2010.

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Mr. Hassan Ahmed Al-Olaqui. Representative of civil society organizations