A state of emergency

The Republic of Yemen was once known for its ancient cultural heritage, dating back thousands of years, and its stunning natural landscapes. However, this small country on the Arabian Peninsula has been ravaged time and time again by armed conflict and humanitarian crises. In September 2014, fighters from the Houthi movement seized control of Yemen’s capital Sana’a and its government institutions. Since March 2015 a brutal armed conflict for control, also involving the regional powers, has been raging, with devastating consequences for the civilian population. Death, hunger and disease are bleeding Yemen dry. An end to the fighting is not yet in sight, and peace talks have failed to produce tangible improvements for the people.

Of Yemen’s 30 million inhabitants, 24 million require some form of humanitarian or protection assistance. More than half of the population is suffering from hunger.

Support for internally displaced persons in Yemen

The project provides access to improved basic services

Yemen

Project name
Improving access to basic social services for internally displaced persons and the local population in central host regions in Yemen

Commissioned by
German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Implementing organisation
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Project region
Governorate Ibb, Taiz, al-Hudaida, Hajjah

Duration
September 2016 to August 2022

Volume
8 million euros

Improving quality of life

On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is working to improve the provision of basic services for internally displaced persons and their host communities in Ibb, Taiz, al-Hudaida und Hajjah. These governorates are hosting a third of the country’s displaced persons.

GIZ is drawing on decades of experience in Yemen in supporting the country at this challenging time. It is assisting local authorities and civil society organisations in improving living conditions. These structures will be particularly beneficial for the reconstruction of the country.
GIZ and its local partners are supporting internally displaced people through various activities, for example by improving access to sanitation and hygiene campaigns, upgrading the drinking water supply and repairing wells. People in need now also have better access to medical care: run-down health centres are being refurbished and supplied with equipment, and training is provided for volunteer health workers and medical staff. Programmes for families, children and teenagers enable them to deal with their war-related trauma and gain positive experiences of ‘normal’ life.

**Our results**

After three years, the project is producing tangible results: More than half a million people have access to drinking water, sanitary and health facilities and other services. The project has supported 22 health centers that were previously unable to provide adequate medical help, through necessary renovation work and the procurement of medical equipment. This benefits over 314,000 local and internally displaced people. 70 medical professionals learned more about obstetrics, vaccinations and the treatment of chronically malnourished patients. To improve drinking water and sanitation for around 280,000 people, the project supported the rehabilitation of seven wells and the construction of 150 latrines. Members of various communities received training in the maintenance and upkeep of the infrastructure.

More than 25,000 particularly vulnerable groups, such as people with disabilities, women, girls and the elderly, were supported by specific activities. 34 school psychologists were trained in dealing with trauma, and 11 child-friendly areas were equipped with games, for example in refugee camps and schools. In addition, the project supported an epilepsy center, a center for physiotherapy and one for children with disabilities by procuring necessary equipment and training staff members.

**Improving mental health through sport**

When Wagdy Amin Almusenni lost his younger brother to a mortar bomb in Taiz, the 17-year-old was overcome by severe depression.

“I didn’t go out of the house. I didn’t want to see my friends any more – I lost all interest in life and all motivation. Then the coach of a football team came along and persuaded me to play.”

The discipline of attending daily training and belonging to a group were good for Wagdy. His mental health gradually improved – topped off by success on the pitch. Wagdy’s team won one of the 80 GIZ-sponsored football tournaments, and he was chosen as man of the match and team captain. In 2018, he represented his country as a member of the national youth team.

Wagdy Amin Almusenni, internally displaced person in Taiz, Yemen

The project is part of the BMZ Special Initiative entitled ‘Tackling the root causes of displacement, stabilising host regions, supporting refugees.’ The measures supported by the project benefit IDPs and host communities alike. With its sustained approach, the initiative seeks to eliminate long-term structural causes of displacement, such as social inequality and lack of prospects. This particular project gives Yemeni people better access to water, sanitation and health services.