

## **Chapter V**

### **Human Resource Development**

## Population

Despite considerable efforts exerted in development, population growth over the last two decades undermined the ambitious growth targets foreseen in the development plans. Growth requires more investment and more public expenditures in order to meet the needs for expanded population. The population of Yemen increased from 11.1 million people in 1990 to 19.7 million in 2004. Population growth went down from 3.7% in 1994 to 3.02% in 2004.

The population growth over the last 15 years resulted from improvements in health and living conditions in rural and urban areas alike. Mortality rates went down. Infant mortality rate also went down from 131 for every 1,000 births in 1990 to 70 in 2004. During the same period, under 5 mortality went down from 125 to 99 for every 1,000, while life expectancy increased from 46 years to 60 years.

**The Population Pyramid (000)**

| Age Group | 1990  | 2004  |
|-----------|-------|-------|
| 0-4       | 2,404 | 4,015 |
| 5-9       | 2,073 | 3,298 |
| 10-14     | 1,164 | 2,616 |
| 15-19     | 1,137 | 2,187 |
| 20-24     | 817   | 2,099 |
| 25-29     | 631   | 1,671 |
| 30-34     | 558   | 1,074 |
| 35-39     | 502   | 849   |
| 40-44     | 424   | 831   |
| 45-49     | 340   | 696   |
| 50-54     | 295   | 514   |
| 55-59     | 249   | 389   |
| 60-64     | 181   | 290   |
| 65-69     | 137   | 214   |
| 70-74     | 86    | 162   |

The government has all along recognized the danger posed by population growth within the younger age groups. The government has been exerting efforts to address such pressures through:

- Convening the First National Population Conference in October 1991, and approving the first population strategy and action plan for the years 1990-2000;
- Creating the National Population Council and the General Secretariat in 1992. The NPC draws up population policies and planning, coordinating, monitoring and assessing all issues related to population;

- Convening the Second National Population Conference in October 1996 in a bid to update the population policy to meet developments occurring over the first half of the 1990s;
- Creating administrative units in the various government organs including the General Directorate for Reproductive Health within the Ministry of Health and Population, the General Directorate for Population Information, within the Ministry of Information, the Population Research and Training Center within the Ministry of Information, the Women's Studies Center in Aden University, the Population Studies Center within the Central Statistics Organization, and the Health and Population Committees in Parliament and the Shoura Council;
- Convening the Third National Population Conference in October 2002. The conference was devoted to a comprehensive review and assessment of the objectives of the population policy. It underlined the need to continue addressing the challenges, improving institutional, technical and administrative capacities, updating legislation and laws that affect economic conditions, increasing the role of local communities and local governments in remedying population issues. The conference also endorsed the National Population Policy for the period 2001-2025. The NPP underlined the importance of doubling efforts to achieve the goals of development.

## **Health**

The government has been paying closer attention and has intensified efforts towards improving the health conditions of the people in order to avert the suffering endured in the past from the outspread of diseases. The government has expanded health services coverage from 38% in 1990 to about 60% of population in 2004. Development plans and programs also underline that health development is a primary pillar for achieving sustainable human development. The First and Second Five Year Development Plans, Yemen's Strategic Vision 2025, and the PRSP focused on the expansion and improvement of health services i.e., primary health care, reproductive health, expanded immunization and elimination of endemic diseases and illnesses, such as malaria, schistosomiasis and tuberculosis, in addition to increasing health service coverage nationwide.

## Investment Expenditures in Health

| Year         | YR (million)     |
|--------------|------------------|
| 1990         | 157              |
| 1991         | 146              |
| 1992         | 188              |
| 1993         | 297              |
| 1994         | 107              |
| 1995         | 478              |
| 1996         | 3,603            |
| 1997         | 2,939            |
| 1998         | 5,034            |
| 1999         | 3,750            |
| 2000         | 5,801            |
| 2001         | 5,695            |
| 2002         | 5,641            |
| 2003         | 7,488            |
| 2004         | 8,192            |
| 2005         | 10969 (Budgeted) |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>60,485</b>    |

In Maternal and Child Care, efforts have focused on improving health services for mothers and children. The number of reproductive health centers increased from 150 in 1990 to more than 650 in 2004. Immunization against contagious diseases for children against chicken pox, polio, diphtheria and measles improved to 70% and against liver disease to 45% in 2004. Yemen has just implemented programs and plans that aimed at improving health conditions in general but also benefited from international developments and advancements in medicine and built up on further investment under the PRSP and eventually within the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, which primarily address the reduction of child mortality and improving maternal health.

|                        |       |        |
|------------------------|-------|--------|
| Children's Centers     | 2     | 340    |
| Number of beds         | 8,549 | 12,252 |
| Doctors                | 2,600 | 3,195  |
| Male and Female Nurses | 6,604 | 8,777  |

## Public Education

Public education is important in laying down the foundation for qualified and trained work force capable of increasing production and improving productivity and contributing effectively to economic and social developments. Public education plans and programs stressed the need to enhance the quality, improve the curricula, and provide public education requirements, such as teaching tools and teachers. They also underline the need to expand school construction to ensure availability and access to education facilities, and thus encourage higher enrollment in basic education, especially for girls. Plans also highlight the need to improve the environment and management of the sector.

## Educational Facilities and Schools

The number of education projects that have been executed during 1990-2005 totaled 6,552 including the construction of 28,855 classrooms at a cost of YR 81.2 billion. Schools have spread throughout the governorates, especially in remote areas where education has not been accessible prior to unification, or where the number of schools was limited, such as in Marib, Shabwa, Lahj, Amran, Sa'ada, Al-Mahara, Al-Mahweet, Al-Dhali'a, Al-Jouf, Ibb, Hadhramaut, etc.

### Size and Cost of Education Projects

| Year         | No. of Projects | No. of Classrooms | Cost (YR Million) |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1990         | 114             | 324               | 194               |
| 1991         | 180             | 644               | 228               |
| 1992         | 88              | 419               | 328               |
| 1993         | 41              | 151               | 80                |
| 1994         | 20              | 47                | 65                |
| 1995         | 119             | 401               | 993               |
| 1996         | 192             | 827               | 2,344             |
| 1997         | 240             | 1012              | 2,673             |
| 1998         | 361             | 1654              | 5,328             |
| 1999         | 345             | 1377              | 3,258             |
| 2000         | 411             | 1512              | 3,416             |
| 2001         | 650             | 2624              | 7,411             |
| 2002         | 612             | 2948              | 7,963             |
| 2003         | 1363            | 5954              | 18,601            |
| 2004         | 1362            | 6168              | 18,831            |
| 2005         | 454             | 2666              | 9,466             |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>6552</b>     | <b>28,728</b>     | <b>81,179</b>     |

The rise in the number of education facilities led to much enthusiasm for education and increasing interest in girls' education at all levels. Enrollment in basic and secondary education increased especially among girls. Enrollment in first grades reached 345,516 students in 1990, of whom 134,247 were girls. The number doubled in 2004 to reach 753,714 including 328,640 girls. Total enrollment in basic education increased from 2,047,032 (684,338 girls) to 4,146,333 students (1,633,404 girls) during the same period. In percentage terms, enrollment in basic education increased from 52.7% to 61%. There has also been significant increase in staff, including teachers and auxiliary service staff. The number of personnel also increased from 49,283 employees (14,169 females) in 1990 to 241,120 employees (44,886 females) in 2004.

A Higher Committee for Curricula was created to undertake modernizing and improving the syllabi and printing school textbooks. A number of technical and specialized sub-committees were also formed. The General Corporation for Printing School Textbooks was also created, which play a major role in providing school textbooks. Current expenditures in education rose from YR 5.4 billion in 1990 to YR 116.9 billion in 2005. Investment expenditures quadrupled from YR 4.9 billion to YR 20 billion during the same period.

#### **Public Expenditures in Education (YR million)**

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Current Expenditures</b> | <b>Capital Expenditures</b> | <b>Total</b>   |
|-------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| <b>1990</b> | <b>5,386</b>                | <b>4,916</b>                | <b>10,302</b>  |
| <b>1991</b> | <b>6,950</b>                | <b>546</b>                  | <b>7,496</b>   |
| <b>1992</b> | <b>8,211</b>                | <b>1,082</b>                | <b>9,293</b>   |
| <b>1993</b> | <b>11,629</b>               | <b>475</b>                  | <b>12,104</b>  |
| <b>1994</b> | <b>14,797</b>               | <b>299</b>                  | <b>15,096</b>  |
| <b>1995</b> | <b>19,967</b>               | <b>598</b>                  | <b>20,565</b>  |
| <b>1996</b> | <b>30,217</b>               | <b>2,476</b>                | <b>32,693</b>  |
| <b>1997</b> | <b>32,754</b>               | <b>6,549</b>                | <b>39,303</b>  |
| <b>1998</b> | <b>39,132</b>               | <b>7,448</b>                | <b>46,480</b>  |
| <b>1999</b> | <b>51,894</b>               | <b>4,892</b>                | <b>56,786</b>  |
| <b>2000</b> | <b>71,861</b>               | <b>3,983</b>                | <b>75,844</b>  |
| <b>2001</b> | <b>80,577</b>               | <b>4,594</b>                | <b>85,171</b>  |
| <b>2001</b> | <b>99,069</b>               | <b>5,669</b>                | <b>104,738</b> |
| <b>2003</b> | <b>96,283</b>               | <b>10,273</b>               | <b>106,556</b> |
| <b>2004</b> | <b>101,387</b>              | <b>25,270</b>               | <b>126,657</b> |

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

Development policies and strategies highlight the importance of developing human resources. Technical education and vocational training (TEVT) is one tool to

achieving this goal. Yemen's Strategic Vision 2025, the First and Second Five Year Development Plans, and the PRSP all included quantitative targets for the sector and stressed the importance of providing adequate resources to the sector to help get qualified and trained manpower. TEVT has received increasing attention by the political leadership and government that stress the need for expanding fields of training to the maximum.

The Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training was created in the first Cabinet after the unification of Yemen. A General Corporation for Vocational Training was also established. In 1995, the Vocational and Technical Training Fund was also created, and the first Council for Vocational and Technical Training was formed in the same year. The Council is responsible for proposing policies and plans required for developing the field. The Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training was created in 2001. Broad tasks were assigned to the Ministry including raising the absorption capacity, balancing between output of technical education and vocational training on one side and output of university education on the other, and preparing and implementing a strategy to attract 15% of the output of basic education in favor of technical education by 2012.

The map for technical education has expanded to include 15 governorates including the city of Sana'a. The number of training institutions increased from 6 in 1990 to 59 in 2004. On the other hand, the number of graduates from technical and vocational institutes reached 4,046 students in 2004, compared to 708 in 1990. Cooperative training programs have been implemented since 1996 in a bid to expand technical and vocational training in the governorates. Beneficiaries from the program were 932 trainees in 2004 compared to 41 at the start of program. A new program for ongoing training was set up and started in 1998, while other courses reaching 1,169 have been implemented serving 26,537 trainees.

Total annual expenditures from the public budget for the construction of technical and vocational training facilities amounted to YR 5 billion and YR 4 billion for furnishing and providing equipment to training facilities. The Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training has also worked on strengthening international cooperation with friendly states and international agencies, hence realizing technical and financial support amounting to \$70 million to improve technical and vocational training. Foreign financing has been directed towards expansion in the construction of technical and vocational institutes and to opening up new fields of training such hotel management and services, tourism, oil and gas, rehabilitating women, etc.

## **Higher Education**

Higher Education has made considerable improvements. The number of universities rose from 2 universities in 1990, merely in each of Sana'a and Aden to about 15 universities in 2004, of which seven are government universities based in Sana'a, Aden, Ta'ez, Hodeida, Hadhramaut, Ibb and Dhamar. The number of faculties increased from 14 to 129 during the same period. Similarly, the number of students in government universities increased from 39,990 in 1990/1991 to 177,428 during the school year 2004/2005. Female students represented 26.7%. Students in private universities reached 11,623 during the school year 2002/2003 distributed in various fields of study.

Community colleges were opened in Sana'a, Aden, Seyoun, Socotra Island, Marib and Ta'ez. In the meantime, work is also proceeding for setting up other community colleges in all governorates. The objective is to focus on fields that conform to the needs of the labor market, especially those that absorb graduates through public and private employment. Currently, government universities are being connected to an information network and are being supplied with computers. In addition, the National Strategy for Reforming Higher Education is being drafted and deficiencies in higher education are being addressed. Communication and information technologies are being introduced in the education curricula to keep pace with developments in science and knowledge.

## **Linking Education Output to Labor Market**

Economic and social developments experienced by Yemen have led to rapid growth in population, in particular among those at working age. The size of the workforce increased from 2.6 million in 1990 to 4.9 million in 2004. In order to provide employment, improve productivity, and combat poverty the government adopted a set of plans and strategies. They all aimed to ensure matching between education output and needs of the labor market, in order to increase job opportunities and participation in the labor market through:

- Upgrading efficiency of education and training according to labor market needs;
- Implementing the strategy and policies for the elimination of illiteracy and the promotion of adult education;
- Spreading basic education and curtailing drop-out rates in basic education;
- Modernizing public education systems and curricula including technical and university education to keep pace with international developments;
- Encouraging private sector investments in establishing training centers and institutes.

## **Culture**

The cultural diversity is a prominent feature in the life of the Yemeni people. The government has been exerting efforts in preserving the country's cultural heritage nationwide, safeguarding national identity, working on building the capacities of national cultural institutions and centers, promoting local talents and capabilities, and disseminating the diversity of the nation's heritage.

The government has worked on finalizing the legislative structure for cultural fields. Ten laws have been issued relating to antiquities, tourism, intellectual property (patents and copyrights), regulating artistic creativity, adoption of a national tourism policy, the creation of the General Authority for Tourism Development, in addition to adoption of a Comprehensive Strategy for Yemeni Culture in 1990 and a National Strategy for Culture and Cultural Development in 2004.

## **Cultural Facilities**

Several cultural facilities have been established to promote the country's cultural heritage through exhibitions, seminars, lectures, plays, etc. Also, a number of cultural centers were renovated and maintained in the major cities at a cost of YR 796 million. The most important of these cultural centers are in Ataq, Al-Mahweet, Al-Mukalla, Al-Gheitha, the Commandant Theater in Lahj, the Hafoun Theater in Aden and Al-Jeib Al-Arais Theater in Aden. Maintenance work also covered the cultural centers in the Governorate of Sana'a, Ta'ez, Hodeida, Dhamar, Sa'ada, Al-Beidha and Hajjah. Centers' libraries were furnished and the children's theater was equipped. The city of Sana'a maintains open air theaters in the Old City, Al-Sabi'een Park and al-Thoura Park.

## **Local and Regional Festivals**

Festivals have been important tools to promote the country's cultural heritage. Sixteen local festivals are held nationwide. These festivals are varied in nature ranging from weddings traditional songs, Yemeni religious chants, folk poetry recitals and theater plays. In addition there are the Autumn Festival in Al-Mahara, Al-Fudhool Festival in Ta'ez, the Commandant Festival in Lahj, the Sahareij (Cisterns) Festival in Aden, the Hijan Festival in Al-Husseinia, Nomadic Festival in Al-Jouf, Al-Baldah Festival in Al-Mukalla and Village Festival in Wadi Hadhramaut, etc. The Ministry of Culture and Tourism participates in Arab festivals. The most important are the Jarash Festival in Jordan, the Bahraini Theater, Opera Nights in Egypt, the Carthage Festival in Tunis, the Arab Babylon and Urban Theater in Iraq and Samsamiah Festival in Egypt.

The Ministry has been participating in the regional festivals through official delegations and Yemeni Artistic Teams to participate in Arab festivals. The National Theater Team and Hadhramaut Team took part in the Oman Festival, Lahj Group took part in the Doha Festival and in International Al-Hadhar Festival, Al-Beidha Team in the Dubai Festival and the Aden Group in numerous Arab countries.

## **Cultural Publications and Manuscripts**

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism publishes 10 monthly and periodic magazines and journals dedicated to the dissemination of the nation's culture heritage. Some of these publications include Al-Ikleil, Al-Thaqafah, Finoun, Al-Masnad, Tourism, Raidan, Wadhah Magazine for Children and the Monthly Al-Thaqafah Book. Yemen boosts the following four major houses for manuscripts and books on heritage:

- The Manuscript House in Sana'a houses about 4,000 handwritten manuscripts and 11,000 books;
- The "Western Library" in the Grand Mosque of Sana'a holds 3,437 hand written manuscripts, 465 collections and 10,000 researches and letters;
- Al-Ahqaf Library for Manuscripts in Tarim (Hadhramaut) houses 5,338 books in addition to manuscripts.

In 2004, Sana'a was chosen as the Capital of Arab Culture, during which 789 cultural activities were organized. The Ministry of Culture and Tourism independently carried out 542 activities, and 99 activities were organized in participation with a number of cultural institutions. There were 148 activities arranged by other cultural institutions,

focusing on music, religious chants and folklore arts. There were 165 activities of conferences, seminars and intellectual lectures; 119 activities of book exhibits, art exhibits, photography exhibits and handicrafts. Moreover there were 112 activities for the theater and cinema, in addition to 61 activities for conferences, meetings, festivals and caravans.

Arab and foreign cultural events totaled 82. The most outstanding of these was the Forum for the Arabic-German Novel, the First Sana'a Meeting for the Young Arab Poets, the International Seminar for Dialogue on Civilizations, the Arab and Islamic Culture Seminar in Sicily, Yemeni Exhibition in Egyptian Eyes, art exhibits for some Arab and foreign artists, the China Development Exhibit, Japanese Graphic Arts Exhibit and the Conference on Yemeni Architecture. A number of musical shows took place for the Japanese band "Neshwar", Luigi Cello of Italy, the German Orchestra, a French musical band, Al-Harith Indonesian Band and the Al-Wadadiah Algerian Band. The number of publications that were issued in Sana'a, the Capital of Arab Culture for 2004 was about 394 publications, including poetry collections, intellectual, historic and critical writings. Honors bestowed upon 480 creative writers, intellectuals, poets and artists, of whom 120 were Arabs. All the governorates took part in the celebrations of this occasion throughout 2004.

## **Antiquities and Museums**

The General Authority for Antiquities, Museums and Manuscripts (GAAMM) plays a major role in preserving national heritage and ancient treasures of archeological, historical sites and old schools and mosques throughout the country. GAAMM within available resources implements renovation and maintenance works for landmark historic sites. Work has been underway to renovate and maintain the National Museum in Sana'a. The museum comprises several buildings that are distinct and original in their architectural style and reflect the beauty of the Sana'ani and Ottoman architectural art. A comprehensive plan has been prepared to renovate and maintain those buildings and preserve their distinctive architectural style. The Al-'Amiriah School in Rada'a has been also renovated. The School was built during the Tahiriyyah Dynasty about 516 years ago. It is a beautiful historic relic of innovation which needed renovation and maintenance work since 1983. Renovation and maintenance took some time given the fact that the School has precise and valuable architecture requiring precision in maintenance work. GAAMM had set up a national team to undertake renovation and maintenance works of such historical landmark site. This team will contribute to the renovation and rehabilitation of other similar landmark sites across the country in the future.

There exist four museums in Jabal Al-Oud, in Ibb, Al-Hami in Hadhramaut, Zanjibar in Abyan and the Folklore Museum in the Al-Hada area of Dhamar and the Provincial Museum of Dhamar. There are also the Folklore Museum in the city of Sana'a, Beynoun in Dhamar and the underground warehouse room in the National Museum in Sana'a. A number of other historical sites are identified and protected by walls like in Al-Rua'a, Kadaf Al-Saf in Lahj and Zanjibar, Dhamar, Aden Khansar and Al-Qird in Abyan and Dhu Humma Museum of Antiquities in Al-Mahweet.

National inventories of antiquities have been carried out in many parts of the country. An inventory was done in Al-Mahweet Governorate where 250 historic sites have been documented. A similar inventory was also carried out in Hajjah Governorate, where around 400 landmark and historic sites have been documented. GAAMM has also undertaken excavation works in more than one location using national expertise. There are also other excavations being carried out by foreign missions with the cooperation of the National Team from GAAMM. Such excavations include the Temple of Awam and the Sanctuary of the Throne of Bilqis, the Temple of Birran Marib and the Throne of Bilqis in Marib, Tamnu'u in Shabwa, in addition to excavation works at the Temple of Baraqish and Surwah in Marib, Makaynoun in Hadhramaut Governorate and Bir Ai and Old Shabwa in the Governorate of Shabwa.

### **The Book General Authority**

The government has paid close attention to public libraries and the role they play in disseminating public culture. The government has set up a general authority for such task. The General Book Authority has achieved noticeable accomplishments in the form of constructing 25 public libraries in the various governorates and setting up book fairs in Sana'a, Aden and Hadhramaut. The Authority also published more than 100 poetry books for prominent poets and intellectuals.

### **The General Authority for the Preservation of Historic Cities**

Yemeni cities have maintained their distinctive character and styles that earns the admiration of locals and visitors. However, there remains a high risk undermining their existence in the long term. The government has therefore established the General Authority for the Preservation of Historic Cities (GAPHC) to take on the responsibility of safeguarding, maintaining and preserving those historic cities and ensure their conformity and synergy with the surroundings old style neighborhoods, gardens, mosques, steam baths and open areas. The GAPHC has undertaken a number of tasks in Old Sana'a, Shibam-Hadhramaut, the historical city of Zabid, the Cisterns in Aden and the projects for the City of Jibla.

### **The National Archives and Documentation Center**

The Government has been exerting efforts in the last two decades to preserve and archive national documents. A Republican Decree no. 22 for 1984 established a committee to collect and maintain documents of the Government. The committee is responsible for collecting and accounting for all ancient documents stored and scattered across government agencies and departments. A National Archives and Documentation Center was created under Republican Decree no. 25 for 1991. It is the first archives agency specialized in maintaining and archiving government documents. A Law for Documentation no. 21 was issued in 2002. The law regulates the collection, storage and maintenance of documents. It also undertakes assessment of documents, dissemination, protection of national heritage and helping researchers.

The Center has compiled documents that had been collected by a previous committee. It also began collecting and storing government documents from their sources, including cleaning and technical treatment. Such efforts yielded in the accumulation of many documents that add up to 3,000 meters in 11,500 portfolios in cartons and 950 metal cases which contain historic documents dating back to pre-revolution period and post-revolution period. They also comprise 1,140 registers and 588 files in addition to several pre-revolution official and opposition papers which were collected in bounded volumes. The Seyoun Branch of the Center maintains numerous documents dating back to British colonialism and the rule of the Sultanates, which have been moved to the center from various government entities. The center has exerted significant efforts in separating and classifying documents, relating them to one of three epochs, which are the Ottoman Age, Pre-Revolution Imamate and Colonialist Period and the Republican period. Indices were also prepared to classify those documents according to their nature.

Work in computerizing national documents systems did not start until 1998. However, a data base and software related to archiving activities for the center have been prepared, including the indices for documents in the Center's branch in Seyoun. A data base was also developed for the records and files covering pre-revolution period in Yemen. A number of other indices were entered to organize documentation of some government entities. The center also paid attention to providing microfilm photocopying for stored documents to preserve the originals and enable students and researchers to have access.

## **Public Information and the Press**

The Yemeni people across the spectrum do not underestimate the role played the press and the media at large in instilling and disseminating democratic values and national unity. Freedom of press is a core pillar of support for democracy and political pluralism, underlying values declared with the unification of Yemen. Law no. 25 for 1990 on the Press and Publications and the subsequent bylaws were issued underlying commitment to free thinking, expression and public access to information. The Law confirmed that independent press has the freedom to exercise its mission of serving society and shaping opinion and expression of the people's orientation within the confines of Islamic beliefs, constitutional foundations, and objectives set out by the Yemeni Revolution. The law underlined the protection of journalists and creative persons, providing legal guarantor for allowing them to exercise their right and express their opinion without being subjected to any illegitimate accounting. The Ministry of Information has prepared a Policy for Public Information, which has been derived from its different plans and activities that are consistent with the Law of Journalism and Publications no. 25 for 1990.

Yemeni press has seen vast changes and developments over the years. The number of press publications during the first year of unification increased to 93 daily, weekly and monthly publications representing the political spectrum, in addition to syndicates' periodical journals. The official press has been challenged by an independent press that addresses issues and implications, and allow for candid public debate along the lines of the Law of Journalism and Publications and national interest. The opposition partisan press is the platform through which political parties and

organizations express their viewpoints on performance and activities of government. Partisan and independent newspapers numbered nearly 55 daily, weekly, semi-monthly and monthly newspapers. There are also a number of independent, neutral or specialized newspapers reaching 80 publications. Yemen also allows the entry of Arab and foreign press publications numbering about 75 publications.

## **The General Radio and Television Corporation**

The Sana'a-based Radio and Television General Corporation, which was established in Sana'a in 1976, was merged with the Aden-based Radio and Television Authority, established in 1986 to form the country's unified public information corporation. The newly merged corporation was named "the Yemeni Radio and Television General Corporation" headquartered in Sana'a. The corporation comprises Yemeni Satellite Channel, Channel 1 (Sana'a) Channel 2 (Aden), the First Radio General Program (Sana'a), The Second Radio Program (Aden) and local radio stations in Ta'ez, Al-Mukalla, Hodeida, Seyoun, Socotra, Al-Mahara and Abyan.

## **Television and Radio Broadcasting**

The Corporation has made significant achievements in terms of infrastructure, technical, engineering and programming structures. TV and Radio broadcasting policies and strategies were updated. TV and radio outlets were supplied with modern telecommunication equipment. Television broadcasting coverage was expanded covering most parts of the country, staff have been trained locally and overseas in engineering, technical maintenance of equipment, programming and administrative fields. In 2003, transmission hours by the country's broadcast outlets reached 38,400 hours, of which 11,500 hours were by local radio stations, and 14,975 hours by both the First and Second Radio Programs and 11,925 hours by the Satellite TV Channel and the National TV Program.

Television transmission coverage for Channel 1 increased to 78% of the population and 74% of the total area of Yemen. Daily broadcast of the channel also increased to 18.3 hours and the percentage of local programs increased to 60%. The TV satellite broadcasting began in September 1996, as the Yemeni satellite TV channel was later transmitted via international satellite to reach wider regional and international coverage including the entire Middle East region and North Africa, parts of Europe, North America and Asia. The Ministry of Information is a subscriber to Arabsat 2A satellite transmission service and later on expanded subscription to Arabsat A3 digital broadcasting. The Ministry also leased transmission of Yemen satellite television via Nilesat to enable wider outreach to North America and the other five continents. The broadcast coverage of the Channel 2 was expanded to access 60% of the population and 65% of the land area of Yemen. Average daily broadcasting hours increased to 9 hours. The channel was recently re-named "TV Channel 22 May" and the terrestrial TV Channel 1 was merged with the Satellite channel.

Radio stations have also witnessed major developments and expansion to keep up with the country's media development and message underlining the nation's democratization process, free press and freedom of expression. The coverage of the

General Radio Program in Sana'a (Radio 1) based in Sana'a has expanded to reach 90% of the population and 95% of the land area of the country. Daily broadcasting increased to 21.25 hours with local programming taking up 97% of all programs. Radio 2 based in Aden was subjected to destruction and wreckage during the 1994 war for the defense of Unity. Such event undermined coverage to a mere 20% of the population and 4% of the land area of Yemen. However, efforts were exerted for repairing the damages and replacing the equipment, and had yielded to increasing broadcast coverage to 72% of the population and 70% of the land area. Daily broadcasting rose to 15.6 hours with 95% of all programs produced locally. Daily broadcasting in other local radio stations reach 6 hours, where 95% of all radio programs aired by provincial local radio stations are produced locally, covering 13 programs that promote the national identity of Yemenis politically, citizenship-wise and legally. They also highlight the nation's culture, religion, education, health and address population, tourism, environment, social life and sports, etc. Local radio programs also build up awareness and address issues related to children, women, youth, and the handicap.

### **The Yemeni News Agency (Saba)**

Following the merger of "Aden News Agency" and "Saba News Agency", its role has increasingly become more important in keeping up with changes and developments in the country. The agency has taken significant steps to improve its news activities and technical capacity. The agency relies 100% on Yemeni staff in its press, technical and administrative activities at headquarters and branch offices. Over 18 hours per day, the Agency broadcasts nearly 474 local and international news items, and on average 103,794 words per month. Saba receives news from different news media outlets and transmits news through its internet website in operation since May 1999.

Saba News Agency inaugurated its direct foreign transmission via satellite to all embassies of the Republic of Yemen and receives incoming news transmissions from a number of Arab and international news agencies. It also receives news transmissions via satellite TV channels and audio radio broadcasts primarily in Arabic which the Agency depends on for its news, analysis and reports, especially daily political bulletins.

### **Religious Endowments and Guidance**

Islamic endowments maintain importance and status in the history, culture, intellect and jurisprudence of Yemen. Islamic Jurisprudence gives endowments major attention and concern. Islamic endowments cover all areas of charity and public benefit, which contribute to the achievement of economic and social development. The Ministry of Religious Endowment and Guidance plays an important role in the service and supervision of the construction of mosques. The Ministry also supervises the proper delivery of the religious message of mosques and oversees preaching and guidance in mosques, which clearly re-affirms the important role of the Ministry in terms of direct contact with the people. The Ministry also manages the funds and properties of religious endowments, and invests some in accordance with development plans and programs.

## **Building and Maintaining Mosques**

The number of mosques has grown considerably all across the country in view of high population growth and expanded urbanization. Such growth demands expansion in houses of worship. The Ministry contributes to building, expanding, and maintaining mosques and has spent close to YR 1.2 billion during 1990-2004. The ministry has also contributed to the maintenance, repair and renovation of several existing mosques as well as improvement of mosque facilities, in addition to furnishing many mosques at a cost of YR 450 million during the same period.

The Ministry also undertakes activation of guidance through intensifying Islamic seminars and lectures in mosques, within the military and student groups. The Ministry also distributes publications and audio and video tapes safeguarding the unity of ranks and disseminating a culture of tolerance and affinity and instilling tolerant values and ideals of Islam. Lectures and general lessons on Islamic values and principles are also carried out in mosques focusing on teaching intimacy, affinity and internal cohesiveness as well as cooperation and social responsibility. The Ministry provides support for the Holy Koran teaching schools and scholastic circles in mosques due to their impact in building Moslem character and disseminating good conduct. There are more than 600 summer centers for teaching the Holy Koran throughout Yemen, in addition to 435 Holy Koran Learning Schools. Women are accorded considerable attention for enhancement of their awareness on religious and worldly matters. Seminars and lectures are delivered in women mosques and assembly places. Audio tapes and videos are also distributed among women addressing Islamic values and teachings on raising good families and proper upbringing of future generations.

The Higher Institute for Preaching and Guidance was established in 1994. The Institute provides training for sermon speakers and religious guidance counselors and preachers. The institute has contributed to addressing and containing extremism and fundamentalism and spreading out the true values, morals, proper rulings and teachings of Islam among the population. The Ministry also organizes a number of refreshment training courses for sermon speakers and mosque preachers focusing on propagation, methods of speech and ways of dealing with developments in life, etc. The Ministry has also sent streams of guidance counselors to places where there is a need for qualified guides and mosque preachers and sermons enabling the delivery of the proper and true message of Islam.

## **Investment and Revenues**

Investment is needed to build and maintain houses of worship and their associated teachings, religious, cultural and social service facilities. Therefore, there is the need to increase revenues of religious endowments and the collection of their revenues allowing them to keep up with needs to carry out their role as guardian of Islamic institutions and mosques. Total investment expenditures during the last 15 years amounted to about YR 4.5 billion. The shareholding of the Ministry in some companies amounted to YR 40 million. The Ministry has also completed the final

steps for the establishment of an independent legally standing closed shareholding company to be entrusted with the investment of religious endowment funds and properties.

### **Inventory and Regulation of Endowment Funds and Properties**

The Ministry of Religious Endowments and Guidance has implemented a comprehensive inventory of all land, real estate and funds of the endowments in order to have documented account of volume of funds and properties. The Ministry is also working on a set of procedures to regulate the lease and returns from the endowment funds and property and subsequent investment. Such mechanism will enable the Ministry to consider appropriate criteria for setting out fair rental charges that provide adequate revenues to empower endowments to contribute to social cohesiveness and solidarity.