

March 15, 2013

Comments from Germany and Spain on Approval by Mail: Yemen: Climate Information System and PPCR Program Coordination (IBRD)

Dear CIF Admin Unit and Yemen team,

we very much welcome your proposal for Yemen. Please find attached our detailed comments with a number of observations. We would appreciate feedback about how you suppose to implement them.

Kind regards
Annette

Dr. Annette Windmeisser
Klimapolitik und Klimafinanzierung
Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung

Comments on proposed project:

Yemen

Climate Information System and PPCR Program Coordination

Joint Comments from PPCR Committee members Germany and Spain

Summary

Yemen faces significant development challenges that are compounded by the impacts of climate change. Against this background, the proposed project is highly relevant to the country and well aligned with its key strategies, touches upon the key issues in the field of hydro-meteorological and climate services, and offers plausible solutions. The proposal also makes explicit reference to the recommendations on adaptation activities put forth by Yemen's National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA), and aims to address some of the key risks identified therein. We appreciate the project's objective to improve the quality of hydro-meteorological and climate services provided to end-users through enhanced observing networks, new technologies and access to higher resolution global weather and climate products, all of which is accompanied by institutional strengthening, capacity building and knowledge sharing. This will help to improve climate-sensitive decision-making and to cope with the effects of climate change.

We do however have some observations and concerns regarding the long-term sustainability of the hydro-meteorological and climate services introduced by the project and their continuation after the end of the PPCR funding, the assessment of information needs and user requirements, and the results framework and the inclusion of gender aspects therein.

We have no major objections to the implementation of the project. But we would like to see our recommendations (see **bold** highlights below) incorporated during project implementation.

Individual Comments on the Proposed Project

We appreciate that the proposal mentions the risks regarding the sustainability of hydro-meteorological projects in developing countries. It states that the additional Operation & Maintenance (O&M) costs for the new systems will be around US\$ 1-2 million annually and that it is expected that *“the Government will commit to allocating (and supporting thereafter) sufficient regular budget to cover all operational and maintenance needs...”* It also suggests that *“if necessary, corrections to the project design can be made to*

reduce O&M costs". We are concerned regarding the quality of the O&M in case the government does not allocate enough budget. Given Yemen's precarious economic and volatile political situation it cannot be assumed that the Government will commit to allocating US\$ 1-2 million annually to O&M of the project. **We therefore recommend clarifying in greater detail how the long-term sustainability of the systems in terms of funding and quality of outputs will be secured after the end of the PPCR project.**

The proposal mentions, in various places, the identification of user requirements, which is indeed very important from our point of view, and key to the success of the project in reaching the end user. In the results framework, however, this important aspect features only in a footnote. (The results framework also refers to a "needs assessment" in connection with the to-be-established website. However this would appear to refer only to the website itself and to how the website present information, but not to user requirements regarding type and intended use of information.) **We therefore recommend including an indicator or indicators tracking the identification of user requirements – beyond the mere questions pertaining to the design of a website – in the results framework.**

Related to our preceding comment, we very much welcome the intention to employ public user surveys designed and delivered according to WMO recommendations to measure the satisfaction of the end-users with the public weather service (see Intermediate Results Indicator IRI.C1) and the services of the Civil Aviation Meteorological Authority / Yemen Meteorological Service (CAMA/YMS, see IRI.C3). We would however recommend going somewhat beyond measuring satisfaction and counting the numbers of information recipients only, and tracking actual use of information in addition. For instance, the Project Development Objective Indicator 3 ("Direct project beneficiaries (number) of which female (percent)"), states as its end target that there would be 3,000,000 direct project beneficiaries, 50 per cent of which would be female – which to us appears to be a simple headcount of the numbers of people receiving information, which does not actually measure achievement of the objective it is supposed to measure ("End-users using improved tools, information and instruments to cope with the effects of climate change"). **We would therefore recommend, in addition, tracking how the end-users (project beneficiaries), differentiated into male and female users, actually use the improved tools, information and instruments to cope with the effects of climate change, rather than simply tracking the number of people receiving information. This could usefully be combined with determining whether the information provided to end-users is actually being correctly interpreted and whether any key information is still perceived to be needed and missing.**

Comments on Cross-Cutting Issues

Gender

Women have been identified as particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change in Yemen. We therefore very much welcome that the project aims to promote “*gender equity by actively responding to the particular information needs of women, and adapting information to their specific circumstances*”, and that indicators have been devised to measure the satisfaction with public weather services that also aim at disaggregating “where possible for gender and vulnerable groups”. However, **in order to track how the project actually succeeds in responding to the particular information needs of women, we strongly recommend removing the qualifier “where possible” from these indicators (IRI.C1 and IRI.C3).**

Synergies with other donors – in particular German – Climate Change Related Engagement in the Country / Region

We welcome that the PPCR project has a strong focus on national partners and aligns well with national priorities. There is a close linkage between the project and activities in irrigation and water resources management – particularly regarding the production of more reliable hydro-meteorological monitoring data, which could be useful to other national actors and their activities implemented with both multi- and bilateral support.

We appreciate that the German supported project “*Institutional Development of the Water Sector*” is already being mentioned in the proposal as one of the relevant on-going projects. Also, Germany has resumed supporting implementation of the project “*Protection and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity*”. **We highly recommend cooperating with both projects during the implementation of the PPCR project.**