

REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

Ministry of Water and Environment

Minister Office



الجمهورية اليمنية

وزارة المياه والبيئة  
مكتب الوزير

الرقم :  
التاريخ :  
عند المرفقات :

**The National Report on Disaster Risk Reduction to be submitted to the World Conference on Disaster Reduction**  
**(Kobe-Hyogo, Japan, 18-22 January 2005)**

**Introduction;**

The Republic of Yemen is a country that has undergone significant changes from unification in 1990 until today, and these changes are expected to continue and pose a challenge to improving the human development conditions in the country.

The Global Human Development Report (2003) ranked Yemen 148 out of 175 countries, with a human development index (HDI) value of 0.470, placing it among the least developed countries in the world.

In addition, the concentration of more than 70% of the country's population in rural areas, who are financially poor and lack of access to basic services such as, safe drinking water, education facilities and, sanitation.

Government resources are very limited to elicit the needs of geographically distant, vulnerable, and isolated communities programs including the effects of natural hazards and risks, which include flash floods, earthquakes, technological hazards, civil conflict, population growth, urban migration, extreme climate events, desertification, soil erosion, landslide, mudflow, locust invasions, depletion of groundwater aquifers and disease epidemics.

Challenges facing the Government are mentioned above only with the purpose to emphasize the diversity and complexity the nation is currently facing in its continuing efforts to develop and modernize.

In the past two decades, Yemen has experienced different types of disasters that include earthquakes, flash floods, as well as influx of Refugees, civil war and epidemics of communicable diseases. According to the World Disasters Report 2000, within the period 1990-1998, the annual average people affected by disaster were 52,516 while the annual average killed individuals were above 100 units. The report estimated that in 1999 alone, about 19,782 persons were affected by disasters in Yemen. Most of those affected have been the vulnerable segments of the society including women and children.

In addition to that, many unaccountable disasters continuously take place in Yemen. A good example is the elevated number of car accidents every week. The number of casualties rarely goes below 50 deaths a week.

**General Information about Yemen:**

The Republic of Yemen lies in the southwestern part of the Arabian Peninsula between latitude 12°40' and 19° 00' North, and 42° 30' to 53° 05' East longitude. The country covers an area of 555,000 square kms, Rub-Al-Khali area excluded, with about 2000 km of coastline along the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. Its altitudinal range extends from sea level up to 3760m at label Al- Nabi Shauib, the highest point in the Arabian Peninsula.