



YeCon Initiative

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Objectives

- (1) Generate inclusive track II dialogue between **key stakeholders**
- (2) Secure a **sustainable ceasefire agreement** paving the way for the withdrawal of foreign forces and national reconciliation
- (3) Build the capacity of Yemeni institutions to **address the humanitarian crisis**



Pre-project risk assessment

- Extremely volatile conflict environment
- Absence of security guarantees
- Presence of foreign actors
- No credible commitment mechanisms
- Lack of resources and infrastructure
- Political turmoil -- Hadi / Saleh legitimacy issues



Worst Case Scenario

- Houthi and Hadi's forces fail to come to a negotiated agreement.
- The conflict continues, allowing AQAP to consolidate control in the southwest regions.
- Saudi Arabia, Saleh, and the US continue airstrikes and other militarized forms of support against the Houthis.
- Exacerbation of famine and depletion of water sources.
- State fracturing increases
- The combined effects trigger a refugee crisis, threatening stability of the entire region.



Project Partnership

- Phase 1:
 - Middle East and Maghreb Division (GAC)
 - Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)
- Phase 2:
 - Oxfam
 - Middle East Desalination Research Centre (MEDRC)



Project: Phase I

- Track II negotiations with key stakeholders:
 - Saudi Arabia
 - Iran
 - Hadi Gov't
 - Houthi / Saleh bloc
- Carrots and sticks:
 - Threaten Saudis with cuts to military funding if they do not participate
 - Stress to Iran the low-cost, high-reward opportunity to engage with the Saudis in 3rd-party territory
 - If process is successful, GCC membership for Yemen (\$\$\$\$)
- Canada as facilitator, **GCC** as process guarantor



Project: Phase II

- Contingent upon success of Phase I → security paves the way for NGO entry and capacity-building
- Focus: addressing the **causes** of humanitarian strife (weak state institutions, food dependence, water insecurity, absence of economic opportunities) rather than the symptoms
 - GCC Membership is key (common market, resource sharing, research and development)



Benefits to Yemen

- Immediate, short-term relief of famine and water insecurity
- Potential for peace among warring parties, and therefore greater stability in the region
- Long-term capacity-building for institutions



Benefits to Canada

- Diversify relationships with the Middle East
- Leadership role in mediation → Norway and UNSC bid
- Increasing our presence in the Middle East via our aid portfolio



Monitoring

- Time frames:
 - Phase 1: 1 year
 - GCC monitors implementation of ceasefire, sanctions those who breach
 - Weekly reporting to GAC (issues discussed, progress made, conflict statistics)
 - Phase 2: 5 years
 - Monthly reports on humanitarian situation (including metrics)
 - Continuation of dialogue mechanism including Yemeni stakeholders → goal = reunification and reconciliation of the state (new leaders?)



Evaluation

- Short term (6mos-1 year)
 - Constructive dialogue
 - Set the conditions for foreign withdrawal
 - Reduce direct harms to civilian population
- Long term (3-5 years)
 - Decrease regional tensions
 - Build Yemeni capacity to improve humanitarian situation (Metrics include: response time, # of items supplied, supply availability, arrival time, # of deaths, incidence of disease, etc.)