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180

Efforts to Women and Girls Development in Human Settlements in Yemen

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Back ground:

Refer to the establishment of the Habitat Women Network, which aims to the development of the women in human settlements. The Network raised a lot of developing programs, through the different meetings of Habitat activities that had been started since the Women Forum held in Amman in 1994.

The Yemeni national coordinator, took the responsibility of women development in Yemen with the help of the Yemeni women group through the urban development projects in the three main cities : Sana'a, Hodeidah and Aden.

During the implementation of those projects, it had been taken into consideration the issue of women and girls as part of the beneficiaries with in those projects and indicated to the necessities of women rights in this field. The studies that had been prepared and discussed in the different Habitat conferences and women network meetings, had raised the specific needs of women and accordingly, a lot of awareness and encouragement programs were implemented and gave the chance to women in the process of access to land and adequate shelter with betterment of their livelihood.

No. of Women beneficiaries in Urban Development projects

Table "1"

Name of Project	Total Beneficiaries	No. of women
1- Musaik --Sana'a	3300	-
2-Sawad Sawan – Sana'a	1580	24
3-Gholail - Hodeidah	3959	18
4-7 th of July Project- Aden	2500	-

Poverty and efforts to Women Development

Introduction:

From the point of view of the homelessness that relating to a sever manifestation of poverty, women and girls almost facing several constraints in the city.

One could define poverty as follows:

“ Poverty is that level of income which inadequate to meet the basic Human needs of a household in a satisfactory accepted manner”

The republic of Yemen comprises an area of 555000 sq.kms. with a population density of about 23 persons per sq.kms., and population growth rates of 3.4% per year , which is considered to be one of the highest in the world .

Labor force grow at a rate of 48% a year, and about 78% of population lives in rural areas, Two-third of adult people is illiterate and females are less educated.

Malnutrition is prevailing phenomenon among children are chronically malnourished. Also life expectancy is quite low, it is less than 56 years, and infant mortality rate is one of the highest in the world, about 117 cases per thousand. There are many difficulties encountering women, especially women-headed households, the low educational standards, low income, increasing needs and decreasing options, the social attitude towards woman's role and the lack of equal opportunities in terms of work and paid employment.

The women – headed household account for at least 30%. There is a connection between the economic and the expanded dependency level.

Women – headed households constitute the poorest social groups. The dependency born by women (5 individuals other than the sponsor), making the general average of dependency size in society to (6.7) individuals. This means the size of dependency rate assumed by women is expanding.

Table No. 2

In a study carried out by the world Bank on poverty evaluation in 1996, the following indicators were given :

(Poverty Indicators in Yemen, 1992)

Indicator	Urban	Rural	Republic
Population Distribution (%)	19.9	80.1	100
Poor People Distribution (%)	19.4	80.6	100
Average monthly expenditure of the poor (YR)	6465	1687	6435
Absolute poverty Rate (%)	-	-	9
Poverty Rate (%)	19.9	19.4	19.1
Poverty Gap (%)	5.1	5.9	5.6
Poverty intensity (%)	2.2	2.7	2.6

The above information indicates that about (2.6) million Yemeni citizens in 1992 lived the poverty line , and about (1.5) million lived under poverty conditions . About (81%) of those poor live in rura areas . Thus , Yemen is ranked among poor countries . The most poor categories are the vulnerable socia groups, mainly the marginalized category of Al-Akhdam, the returnees form Gulf States ,the disable the orphans and the widows.

Table No. (3)

Percentage of households below poverty line (the upper poverty line) by Governorates in Yemen

Illiterate Rate %	Headcount ratio/ Size of Poverty %	Distribute of the poor %	% Size of Pop.	Governorates
64%	?	0.1	1.1	1-Al-jawf
41%	?	0.4	0.4	2-Al-Mahara
69 %	8.7%	0.6	3.3	3-Sa'adah
62%	-	0.7	1.1	4-Marib
60%	8.3%	0.9	2.4	5-Shabwa
37%	52.1%	2.0	2.6	6-Abyan
28%	23.5 %	2.8	3.0	7-Aden
45%	40.5%	3.7	4.1	8-Lahej
38%	14.8%	3.7	6.5	8-Sanan,a City
66%	12.1%	4.3	2.6	9-Al-Mahwit
69%	17.0%	4.4	8.5	10-Hajjah
55%	7.9%	5.6	3.2	11-Al-Baidah
40%	37.7%	5.7	4.9	12-Haramout
70%	32.3%	10.1	10.7	13-Hodaidah
70%	28.9%	11.9	6.8	14-Dhamar
60%	44.7%	12.2	12.1	15-Ibb
58%	37.7%	13.5	14.0	16-Taiz
64%	23.5%	17.5	12.7	17-Sana,a Gov
59 %	30 %	100	100	ALL Yemen

About 43% of all poor live in three governorates Sana,a, Taiz and Ibb, and an additional 28% live in Dhamar, Hodaidah ,and Hadramout.

Special Efforts:

From the above indicators and information that assessed the women constraints, creates a lot of efforts concerning the women development in several sides. The partnership between the governmental related institutions, NGO's , Charity persons and international donors played a positive role in developing the women through different programs to facilitate them access to health, education, land, adequate shelter and training services as well as supporting their economic activity to enable them encounter the negative effect of the economic reform process in the country.

New efforts to establish a First Girls' Orphanage:

Parallel to the above efforts and from the facts of the integrating women into the socio-economic process especially for the vulnerable social groups such

as widows and female minorities orphans, is lead to an opportunity of an orphanage establishment which started when some Swiss charity societies had visited Yemen in the early of 1998, and had been met some Yemeni gentlemen (one of them is a member of urban management program), where they asked the National coordinator of women network to join the meeting. The discussions came up with different proposals concerning the female orphans care.

Although in Yemen is difficult to allow the girls to live away of their relevant, but the hard situation of the first three sisters and the honesty work of the orphanage staff open the door to the others to join the orphanage.

Day of establishment:

The center was first established on 16th August 1998, with the support of the Swiss charity societies called (Jatour and IHA – International Help Association) under the supervision of the Yemeni Pannel of Urban Management Program and other gentlemen.

Center's Objectives:

1- the center adopts orphan girls from the age of five until the age of eighteen in accordance with the Islamic law (sharia).

2- the center provides for those girls a decent life and leads them in their education , to obtain an academic and vocational certificate. This can only be done with the care and concern of the center , which include providing them with lodging , health care , education and vocational training during their stay there.

3- the center enables them to get involved in and participate in social activities and encourages them to contribute in giving their share towards building a right society .

4- to raise them up so that they grow to become good citizens . the center tries to make out of them good

future mothers able to look after their families.

Centers Programs:

1- nurture programs: upbringing with good dealing behavior programs.

2-Health activities : (enroll check –ups and first aid training and health awareness).

3- Educational programs: (basic lessons, follow –ups of homework's and Islamic scientific works).

4- cultural programs (watching useful videotapes ,receiving cultural lectures music, sport and visiting Yemeni historical monuments and mental training programs.

5- Leisure programs: (games, TV children programs and visiting parks.)

6- Vocational and handicraft programs: (Handicrafts according to the set timetable), initiation of playing with dolls, familiarizing themselves with the different colors and shapes according to their age range and the availability of time and facilities.

Conditions:

1- The Orphans should have an official death certificate of their parents.

2- They should not be less than 5 years & not more than 8 years old.

3- They should stay in the center during the guardianship period.

4- A guarantee should be given to let the orphan stay in the center until she reaches the age of (18).

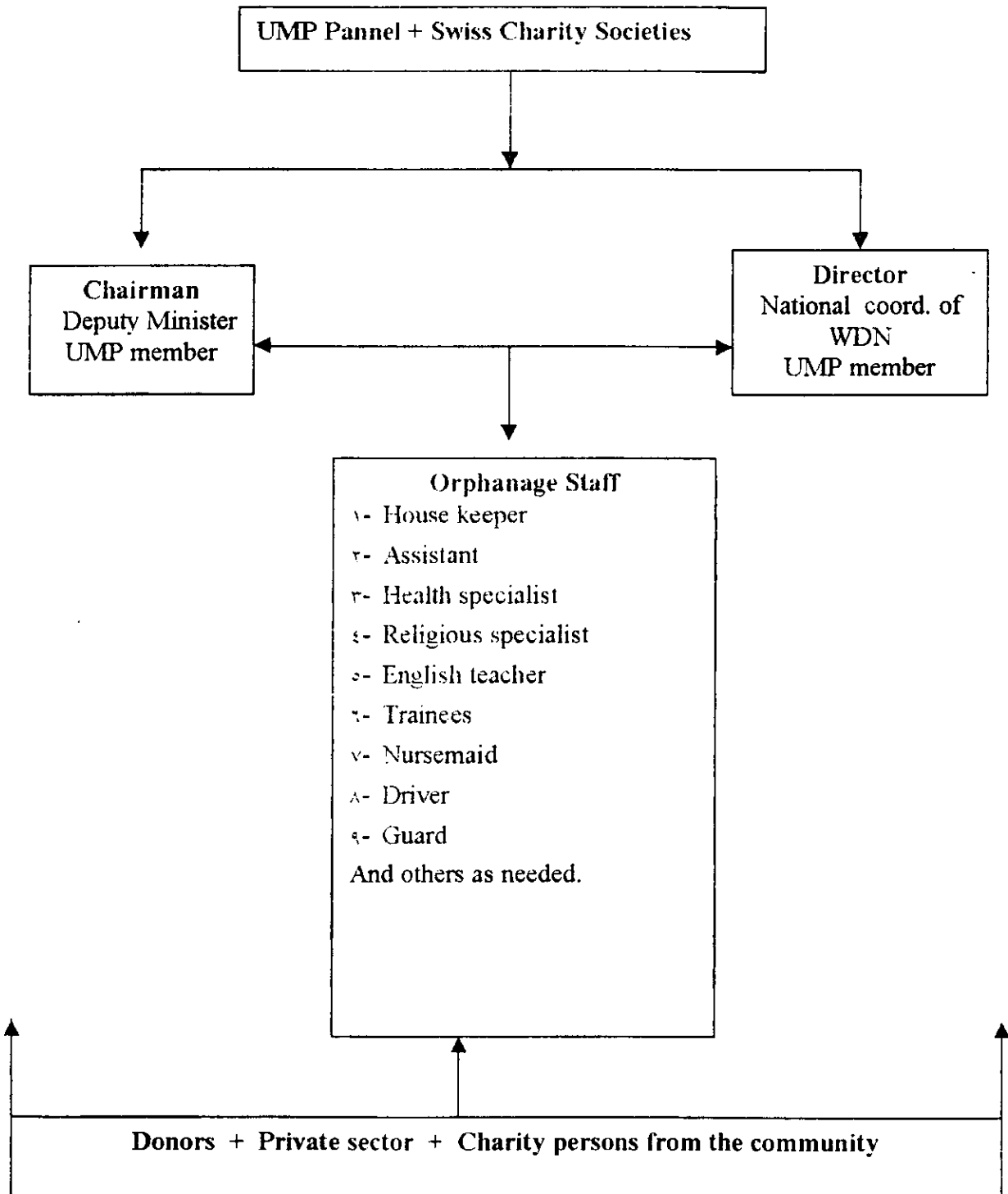
5- An orphan should present a medical certificate proving that she has no infectious diseases.

6- The orphan should abide by the centering rules and regulations.

7- Relatives may visit the orphan once a month.

8- The center does not carry any responsibility in the event of the orphan's natural death.

Partnership of different actors in the financing process concerning the sustainability of the center's activities



This experiment started to try with 20 orphans could be expanded in future according to the successful results. It is planned to establish another centers in Sana'a and the other governorates. The next one may start in Aden , it depends on the analysis of the running socio-economic study.

The progress of the existing center raised a successful girls in the primary school for the last year , and proudly two of them had got the first and second position in their class.

During summer period - last July1999, the girls finished the first course on the first aid. At the beginning of this August, the staff started to prepare a table tennis team to be ready for the coming school race.

Finally the center is looking forward to reach successfully its aims and it will secure an educated or vocational level certificate, which awill enable them to be future employees.