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FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

PRESS RELEASE

UN-Habitat launches USD 9.9 million climate resilience project in Yemen

Aden, Yemen, 29 October 2025 – UN-Habitat, in partnership with the Ministry of Water and Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation of Yemen, has launched a USD 9.9 million project funded by the Adaptation Fund to enhance resilience against water scarcity and flooding in the Tuban Delta. The initiative will benefit more than 1.25 million people in Yemen.

The project aims to build institutional capacity, rehabilitate key water and irrigation infrastructure, and help communities adapt to worsening droughts, saltwater intrusion, and floods in one of Yemen's most climate-affected regions. The launch event was attended by national stakeholders and associations members.

"We are eager to begin implementing this project. The Tuban Delta has faced harsh challenges, and its surrounding communities have suffered greatly. This initiative comes at a crucial time to build local capacities and enhance community resilience," said Abdallah AbdulMajeed, Head of Ras al Wadi Association.

Yemen ranks among the most water-stressed countries in the world, with per-capita water availability as low as 120 m³ per year – far below the scarcity threshold. The Tuban Delta, home to over 1.13 million people and 71 camps for internally displaced persons, faces severe land degradation, water shortages, and recurrent floods. Only five per cent of its agricultural lands use modern irrigation, and many households remain unconnected to the water grid. Recent floods affected more than 148,000 people, damaging homes, roads, and displacement sites.

Across Yemen, over 18 million people remain in need of humanitarian assistance, and 4.5 million are internally displaced – many living in flood- and drought-prone areas. These conditions underscore the urgency of investing in sustainable water management and climate-resilient infrastructure to protect lives and livelihoods.

"These pressures threaten agriculture, livelihoods, and public health, making the project's interventions in water and irrigation infrastructure vital for protecting people and sustaining local economies," said Muna Aliwah, General Manager, Woman Unit, Ministry of Water and Environment.

In response, UN-Habitat and its partners will implement integrated measures to improve water security, reduce flood risks, and promote inclusive, climate-resilient infrastructure.

"This project is closely aligned with UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan, contributing to strengthened climate action and improved urban environments by promoting climate-resilient infrastructure, reducing pollution, and enhancing green spaces, while advancing

urban resilience for communities in Yemen and leaving no one behind,” said Muslim Qazimi, Head of UN-Habitat Iraq and Yemen. “It marks an important milestone for all stakeholders and communities involved, and UN-Habitat is proud to serve as a multilateral implementing partner in achieving its anticipated results.”

The project design was developed through consultations with government institutions, local authorities, and local communities to ensure that the perspectives of women, youth, and marginalized groups are reflected in all stages of planning and implementation. An inception workshop held in Aden gathered national and local authorities, international partners, and community stakeholders to discuss project priorities, accountability mechanisms, and implementation frameworks.

The launch marks an important step in advancing Yemen’s national climate adaptation priorities and demonstrates the commitment of the Adaptation Fund and UN-Habitat to support resilience building in fragile and conflict-affected contexts. Over the coming years, the project is expected to improve water access, protect agricultural livelihoods, and generate lessons for scaling up climate adaptation across Yemen.

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About UN-Habitat

UN-Habitat is the United Nations entity working for sustainable urbanization. With programmes in over 90 countries, it supports policymakers and communities to create socially and environmentally sustainable cities and towns. UN-Habitat promotes transformative change in urban areas through knowledge, policy advice, technical assistance, and collaborative action. To know more, visit unhabitat.org or follow us on social media @UNHABITAT.

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