

ADEN

City Profile



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Aden Steamer Point

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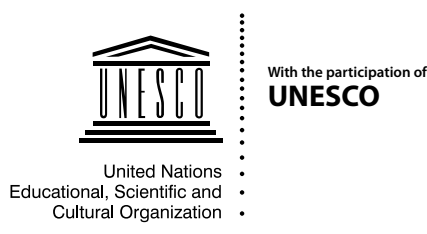
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Urban Profiling Yemen

This project is part of a Profiling Project that aims to develop city profiles of 7 cities in Yemen. These cities include Aden, Sana'a, Sa'ada, Taizz, Al Hudaydah, Al Hawtah and Zingibar. All profiles and data developed in this profile are accessible on the Yemen Mapping and Data Portal.

yemenportal.unhabitat.org/

Sa'ada
Sana'a
Al Hudaydah
Taizz
Zingibar
Al Hawtah
Aden



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Acronyms

ACT	Aden Container Terminal	MHM	Ministry of Housing and Municipalities
AFZ	Aden Free Zone	MTIT	Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology
AIA	Aden International Airport	MoE	Ministry of Education
AQAP	AL-Qaeda in Arabian Peninsula	MoHESR	Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
AWA	Arab Women's Association	MoI	Ministry of Interior
ASR	Assisted Spontaneous Return	MoLA	Ministry of Local Administration
AWD	Acute Water Diarrhea	MoT	Ministry of Transportation
CAC Bank	Cooperative and Agricultural Credit Bank	MoTEVT	Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training
CBY	Central Bank of Yemen	MPWH	Ministry of Public Works and Highways
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women	MSF	Medicines Sans Frontiers
CCIF	City Cleansing and Improvement Funds	MPHP	Ministry of Public Health and Population
CFP	Community Focal Point	MWE	Ministry of Water and Environment
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	NDC	National Dialogue Conference
CSO	Central Statistics Organization	NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
DPW	Dubai Ports World	NNGO	National Non-Governmental Organization
EECR	Emergency Employment and Community Rehabilitation	NSSWM	National Strategy for Solid Waste Management
ERC	Emirates Red Crescent	NWRA	National Water Resources Authority
EU	European Union	NWSA	National Water and Sanitation Authority
FGD	Focus Groups Discussion	NWSSIP	National Water Sector Strategy and Investment Program
GBV	Gender-Based Violence	PCDP	Port Cities Development Program
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council	PDRY	People's Democratic Republic of Yemen
GDP	Gross Domestic Products	PEC	Public Electricity Corporation
GIS	Geographic Information System	PiN	People in Need
GOAM	General Organization of Antiquities and Museums	RDT	Rapid Displacement Tracking
GOPHCY	General Organization for the Preservation of Historic Cities in Yemen	RRM	Rapid Response Mechanism
GoY	Government of Yemen	SFD	Social Fund for Development
GPC	General People's Congress	STC	Southern Transitional Council
GPS	Global Positioning System	SWM	Solid Waste Management
GRT	Gross Registered Tonnage	TFPM	Task Force for Population Movement
HCB	Housing Credit Bank	UAE	United Arab Emirates
HF	Health Facility	UN	United Nations
HLP	Housing, Land and Property	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
HNO	Humanitarian Needs Overview	UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
ICT	Information and Communications Technology	UNOCHA	United Nations Organization for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons	UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services United Nations Office for Project Services
ILO	International Labor Organization	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
IOM	International Organization for Migration	WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
IRG	Internationally Recognized Government	WFP	World Food Program
ISIL-YP	Islamic State of Iraq and Levant – Yemen Province	WHO	World Health Organization
IT	Information and Technology	WSS	Water Supply and Sanitation
JRC	Joint Research Center	WWTP	Wastewater Treatment plant
KI	Key Informant	YAR	Yemeni Arab Republic
KSA	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	YER	Yemeni Rial (currency)
LAEO	Literacy and Adult Education Organization	YSP	Yemeni Socialist Party
LAL	Local Authority Law		
LC	Local Councils		
LNG	Liquefied Natural Gas		
MAI	Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation		
MCHUP	Ministry of Construction, Housing and Urban Planning		
MCLA	Multi-Cluster Location Assessment		
MFW	Ministry of Fish Wealth		

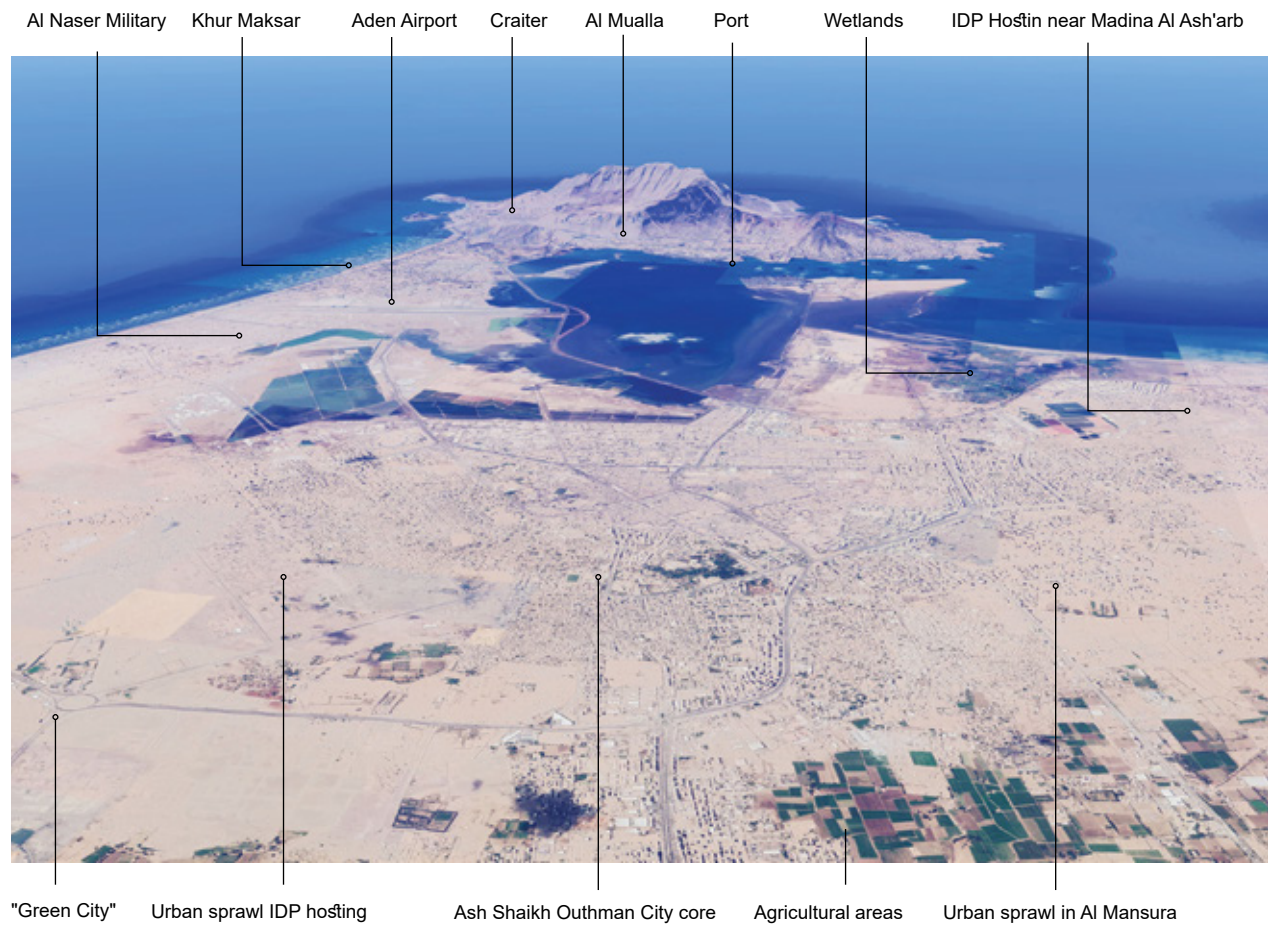
Executive Summary

Aden is the largest city of southern Yemen. It is also the administrative centre of the Aden governorate. At the time of writing, Aden was the internationally recognized capital of Yemen and recent developments regarding efforts to separate Aden as an independent city in Yemen have not been incorporated in the analysis. This profile describes and analyses the situation in the city of Aden across a variety of sectors. It addresses key themes and findings made prominent by the impact of the ongoing conflict, its toll on the city's population, and ability of institutions to provide basic services. Each thematic section study the prevailing situation and needs through triangulation of data, including: secondary data analysis which draws on available publications and media reports; remote sensing; and structured interviews with community focal points (CFP) and sector experts (see section 2: Methodology). The aim of the profile is to provide humanitarian partners with a granular understanding of multi-sector needs in Aden, assisting them in their operational programming and strategic policy development.

Key findings include:

- The conflict had a negative effect on social cohesion between various social groups.** Social and political divisions exist between communities, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), migrants, and refugees across the city. Now, tribal affiliations, historically not a determining factor for political engagement in Aden, are reasserted.
- In the face of uncertain political changes at the top, local councils could become an important entry point for engagement with local government.** Local councils are instrumental in coordinating humanitarian aid and responsible for providing basic services to their districts' electorate. However, their ability to provide services has been severely undermined by insufficient funding, lack of trained personnel, and interference from various political interests and agendas.
- Cultural heritage is under threat, but not just from the conflict.** United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)'s field assessment showed that many cultural heritage sites have suffered some degree of damages from conflict, but also due to longstanding neglect. The ability to mount reconstruction work and conservation without assistance is low, and a comprehensive management strategy is required that covers not only landmarks, but also historical districts as a whole.
- The economic infrastructure in Aden is both its lifeline and a target.** Aden's economy is centered on port facilities, shipping, and industry but in need of substantial investments to continue operations at full capacity. The port facilities are capable to sustain massive amount of humanitarian aid deliveries necessary to offset the impact of losses received from the decline of traditional economies, as well as support a growing population with IDPs, African migrants, refugees, and conflict returnees.
- Aden is in need for housing, and fast.** Both the large influx of IDPs and longstanding planning challenges could become vectors for tensions in the near future. The rise of informal settlements could lead to tensions between land owners and users, and pressure on the rental market will likely lead to unaffordable rents for lower income groups. Both could lead forced evictions. While the authorities have made efforts to regulate urban planning processes that could help address the issue, the legal framework has always suffered from a clear assignment of mandates, making it difficult to implement coherent urban development and management strategies. Furthermore, neighbourhoods in the vicinity of key military sites have been hit hard and are in need of rehabilitation.
- The deterioration of basic services continues to pose health problems, and to hinder the (economic) recovery of the city.** Public services and facilities across every sector have been severely affected during the crisis. Damages to the electric grid and street lightening infrastructure is reported throughout the city, as is evident in the 50% drop in nightlight activity in 2015. Likewise, healthcare services struggle to meet the demand of the (increased) population. Emergency and major surgery services are neither available nor accessible in more than half of the districts. Similarly, water, sanitation and health services have declined: in half of the districts, garbage is not collected, and most areas of the city have constant sewage problems, leading to an increased threat of health-related issues.
- Aden has become increasingly disconnected during the crisis.** Limited communications services are available across the city, and in 6 out of 8 districts network coverage is unavailable or bad. Aden is connected to the rest of Yemen by a limited amount of key economic corridors, the accessibility of which is affected greatly by political dynamics. Furthermore, its road networks are either fully or partially damaged in all districts, and rehabilitation of the transportation sector requires immediate funding and interventions.

Figure 1: Aerial photo of Aden



Source: Google Earth (2019)

Context

Aden is a city and major sea port in the Aden governorate in southern Yemen. Situated approximately 170 km east of the strait of Bab Al Mandeb, which connects the Gulf of Aden to the Red Sea, it overlooks Somalia across the Arabian Sea. Aden possesses one of the world's largest natural harbors, with a naturally deep and protected port that allows for the docking of large oil tankers.¹ Its strategic position, just six kilometers from the main East - West shipping routes, have historically made the city an important node in trading networks.

For centuries, Aden represented the economic capital of Yemen as the principal passageway for commerce between Europe, East Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, and East Asia. Local lore describes the city as "the eye of Yemen and the key to the Red Sea and the treasury of India." Indeed, ancient Roman and Greek merchants linked the Mediterranean basin, through Aden, to the Indian Ocean into a trading network, buying and selling metals, wine, spices, gold, cloth, precious stones, silks, ivory, and exotic aromatic flowers. Although, the importance of Aden as a maritime node waxed and waned through the Ottoman, Portuguese, and the local powerhouse Sultanate of Lahj, its strategic significance increased exponentially with the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869. From that point onward, it became one of the busiest refueling stations in the world, a global transit point, and a major regional transportation hub.

In the 1950s, the port of Aden was the second busiest harbor in the world, after New York, serving as an important oil storage and refueling station for tankers passing through the Suez Canal.² With the closure of the Suez Canal from 1967 to 1975, due to the Six Day Arab-Israeli war, the port's activity significantly declined.

After 1967, Aden served as the political capital of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY) (or 'South Yemen') until unification with the Yemen Arab Republic (YAR) (or 'North Yemen') in 1990.³ Following the unification of Yemen in 1990, and the selection of Sana'a as the new national capital, Aden lost much of its advantage as the political and economic hub of south Yemen. To offset that loss and maximize its commercial advantage and trading potential, Aden was declared a free trade zone (AFZ). Despite the fractious political infighting of the mid-1990s, the government remained committed to upgrading the city's infrastructure. With foreign assistance, the Aden Container Terminal (ACT) was opened in March 1999, adding to the already existing industrial complexes centered on oil refineries operational since 1954. This dramatically increased the volume of transshipped goods between 1997 and 2001 by 28-fold. The new ACT was followed by a major renovation of the Aden International Airport (AIA) in the Khur Maksar district that included a new runway, terminal, and a control tower, all concluded by 2001.

Figure 2: Geographic Location of Aden Governorate within Yemen



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