

Rethinking Yemen's Economy

A Track II Initiative

I. Project Overview

This two-year project, which will begin in March 2017, is an initiative to identify Yemen's economic, humanitarian, social and development priorities in light of the ongoing conflict in Yemen, and to prepare for the post-conflict recovery period. The project will be implemented by the Center for Applied Research in Partnership with the Orient (CARPO), DeepRoot Consulting and the Sana'a Center for Strategic Studies (SCSS). It is funded by the European Union and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Yemen.

II. Project Objectives

The project aims to build consensus in crucial policy areas through engaging and promoting informed Yemeni voices in the public discourse. The aim is to ensure successful economic, humanitarian, social and development interventions in the conflict and post-conflict periods in Yemen, which will address the needs and rights of the Yemeni people and put the country on a path toward sustainable peace and development. There are three main objectives for the project:

1. **To empower Yemeni voices** in contributing to the discourse on economic, humanitarian, social and development priorities in Yemen, re-engage Yemeni experts and build channels/platforms to counter the "brain drain" that the country is witnessing;
2. **To build consensus** around key economic, humanitarian, social and development issues/priorities and approaches of addressing them; and
3. **To inform and positively influence** local, regional and international development agendas in Yemen.

III. Project Activities:

The project will convene a number of structured meetings for Yemeni development experts; develop a series of policy briefs and white papers on economic, humanitarian, social and development priorities; engage key stakeholders; reach out to the Yemeni public in an effort to enhance representation and participation of all parts of society; and positively influence local, regional and international development agendas in Yemen.

The project has four components:

1. **Development Champions Forums:** A number of forums will convene senior Yemeni experts and professionals from both social and economic development fields with in-depth understanding and established experience. The Development Champions will identify key issues for intervention and contribute to the research and analysis of the Research Hive. They will be the driving force of this project.

- 2. Research Hive:** A research hive of Yemeni researchers with experience in those issues identified by the Development Champions will conduct research on Yemen; identify best practices and lessons learned of various international experiences; and present empirical evidence on the specified issues. The researchers will draft white papers on each of the key issues identified as well as provide regular situational analysis on the same issues through producing policy briefs.
- 3. Public Outreach:** As part of the research process, and to ensure the inclusion of various stakeholders, consultation workshops with different local stakeholders including the private sector, youth and CSOs will be implemented. Moreover, the project will also engage the Yemeni public by ensuring effective media coverage and social media engagement throughout the different project phases.
- 4. Regional and International Stakeholder engagement:** The project will reach out to regional and international stakeholders currently engaged in Yemen in order to ensure that they are informed about the outcomes of this project – for the benefit of the people of Yemen and in the hope of more concerted efforts in this regard by the international community.

IV. Partners:

The project is implemented by a consortium of the following three partners:

The Center for Applied Research in Partnership with the Orient (CARPO) is a Germany-based organization whose work is situated at the nexus of research, consultancy and exchange with a focus on implementing projects in close cooperation and partnership with stakeholders in the Middle East. The CARPO team has long-standing experience in the implementation of projects in cooperation with partners from the region and a deep understanding of the Yemeni context.

Website: www.carpo-bonn.org

DeepRoot Consulting is a dynamic social enterprise passionate about Yemen's development. DeepRoot aims to help international development actors, the private sector, local civil society organizations and the Yemeni Government anchor their interventions in a deep understanding of Yemen's national and local contexts, and international best practices. Our leadership team and advisory board has decades of combined experience working in Yemen and internationally in the public, private and nonprofit sectors.

Website: www.deeproot.consulting

The Sana'a Center for Strategic Studies (SCSS) is an independent policy and research think-tank that provides new approaches to understanding Yemen and the surrounding region, through balanced perspectives, in-depth studies and expert analysis. Founded in 2014, the SCSS conducts research and consultations in the fields of political, economic, civil and social development, in addition to providing technical and analytical advice regarding key issues of local, regional and international concern.

Website: www.sanaacenter.org