

Annual Report 2007

Dear friends,

All of us are making decisions - yearly, daily, constantly. As an aid organization, we are challenged to repeatedly decide whether and how to start new projects that will enhance the quality of life among our target people group. For us, a new project always means more work, but this additional amount of work is nothing in comparison to the benefit that our local friends will reap. We are more than happy to report to you that in the year 2007, we were again able to work towards our vision of a better life for the people in Yemen, and our various projects were able to help many achieve a more dignified life! Our main emphasis was a cistern rehabilitation and reforestation project, which was implemented in cooperation with the BMZ (German ministry for development). You can find more information about this project in the project report. In spite of considerable organizational input, we are pleased that we decided to implement this project because of the enormous impact it made on the availability of water for the households in the respective areas. This decision resulted in major benefits for the residents of these villages. The same is true for your gifts and donations: they do make a difference! Often, we are overwhelmed in face of the considerable and significant needs on this planet, and we do not know where to start. In the end, we are often paralyzed and do nothing at all. However, the reality is every donation - *your* donation - does make a difference. In our project report, we conveyed the story of a family that was motivated to donate a substantial amount of money towards a cistern project after watching a documentary regarding our work (Jemens wilder Norden). This project will be implemented in 2008.

Therefore, we wish to express our gratitude for your interest and your partnership in our combined efforts to bring hope into the life of disadvantaged people: a hope that can be seen and felt. Thank you very much. Your support makes all the difference!



A picture can speak a thousand words – our local friends say thank you for the rehabilitation of this cistern (Al-Makfal, Project 1.2).

PROJECTS IN THE DEVELOPMENT SECTOR

1. Water

1.1. “Rehabilitation and construction of rainwater cisterns, planting of mango and coffee trees”

Project duration: 01.12.2006 - 30.06.2007

Project partner: Jama'iyya Nahda

Project location: Jandala, Hajja district

Projekt amount: 33,398 EUR (including the working hours of the locals)

Main sponsor: Landesstiftung Baden-Wuerttemberg

Project directors: Country Representative Berno Heitmann / Engineer Stephan Kraemer



In the year 2006, we thoroughly began a new cistern project. The plan included the building of six new cisterns, the rehabilitation of three existing ones, and the covering of five cisterns with a solid, flat cement roof. After the completion of this project, the villages of Jandala, Goddam, Darwan, and Bani Homeid are now able to use the cistern water for up to six months following the rainy season. The implementation of this project required the purchase of two motor drills because 750 m³ of rock had to be excavated to build the new cisterns.

The project was completed successfully, and all inhabitants of these villages are free to take advantage of the additional water supply. They use it for watering their animals, for washing their clothes, and for irrigating their fields. The covered cisterns provide water that is suitable for drinking and personal hygiene as well.

With the money that was donated by the State Foundation Baden-Wuerttemberg, we were able to purchase a total of 2,143 sacks of cement - 183 sacks more than we had initially calculated. The reason is that the Euro increased in value as compared with the Yemeni Rial during project

implementation. We were also able to get the motor drills for a cheaper price, and the extra money was then re-invested into additional sacks of cement. This additional cement was used to extend the height of the cistern walls so that they can hold more water.

The rural communities supported the projects enthusiastically and invested a total of 8,375 working hours for the building and rehabilitation of the cisterns!

This project laid the foundation for a substantial increase in agricultural productivity, especially for the growth of fruit trees. The second component of this project was the planting of mango and coffee trees. We originally planned to purchase 2,000 mango tree seedlings and 2,000 coffee seedlings, but due to the increased value of the Euro and the reduced prices of the mango seedlings, we were able to buy an additional 1,000 coffee seedlings, 175 guava seedlings, and 150 tanab seedlings (which is a forest tree used for shading).

These seedlings were distributed among the farmers as both an alternative to the qat tree (a locally grown narcotic drug) and a means to generate additional income for the farmers. Income generation is expected to begin after approximately five years.

The State Foundation Baden Wuerttemberg supported this project with 20,000 EUR. VHI added another 5,023 EUR, and the rural communities donated labour hours which have a calculated worth of 8,375 EUR.

“Construction of new cisterns and rehabilitation”

Project duration: 01.05.2007 - ongoing

Project partner: Jama'iyya Mustaqbal

Project location: Hajja governorate, Mabijan district

Project amount: 60,894 EUR (including the working hours of the locals and without administrative costs of VHI Germany)

Main sponsor: Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development in Germany

Project director: Engineer Stephan Kraemer



This project focused on the enhancement of the economical and social situation among rural communities in the Mabiyan district of the Hajja governorate. Hajja governorate is one of the most disadvantaged governorates in Yemen. With this project, we are able to help 170 rural farmers and their families. As each family averages about 7 people per household, this project is able to reach an approximate total 1,200 people.

In this mountainous area, rain fed agriculture occurs primarily on steep terraces. The rehabilitation and addition of cisterns is crucial because rainwater can thus be collected during the rainy season and later be used for either household needs or the irrigation of crops. So far we were able to cover nine cisterns. This has a number of positive effects. In addition to preserving the quality of the rainwater which otherwise gets quite polluted, covering cisterns also prevents mosquitoes from breeding which reduces the spread of malaria. Lastly, it also prevents evaporation and protects children from falling into the cisterns.

The local communities were very cooperative and did their construction work without reimbursement.

Through the rehabilitation of eleven cisterns and the new construction of nine cisterns till the end of 2007 we could already increase the amount of available water in the cisterns from 1,145 m³ (= 1,145,000 litres) to 3,080 m³ (= 3,080.000 litres)!

Women and girls primarily benefit from this project. The amount of time that they must spend daily in order to obtain water from distant wells is drastically reduced, affording them more time to study and join literacy classes.

The growth of mango and coffee trees on terraces and in wadis supplies the farmers with additional income. Coffee is mainly exported to Saudi Arabia, while mangos can be sold on the local market. VHI distributed a total of almost 2,500 mango seedlings and 5,500 coffee seedlings to the local farmers.

The total cost of the project was 60,894 EUR. Of this amount, BMZ sponsored 37,500 EUR and an additional 4,234 EUR came from VHI. The participating villages invested working hours that value 19,160 EUR. They worked more hours than we had anticipated which speaks clearly of their involvement and interest in the project.

1.2. Water filters

Project duration: August – October 2007

Project partner: Jamaiyya Nahda

Project location: Jandala, Hajja district

Project amount: 467 EUR

Project director: Engineer Stephan Kraemer



It is one thing to build cisterns in order to collect more rainwater, but it is another thing to purify this rainwater to make it usable as drinking water. As in previous years, VHI carried out activities in 2007 in order to address this important topic.

VHI supported the construction of ten sand filters for 189 EUR and 50 bucket filters for 278 EUR. Bucket filters are constructed by putting one plastic bucket on top of the other and installing two filter elements in the upper one so that clean water can be drawn to the lower bucket. The filters were distributed in the villages Jandala and Goddam through a local partnering NGO.

1.3. Water and Education

Project duration: Spring 2008

Project partner: Jama'iyya Schiris

Project location: Schiris, Hajja governorate

Project amount: 3,000 EUR

Project director: Engineer Stephan Kraemer



As was previously mentioned, improving access to water supplies within a village reduces the work load for all - especially for the women and girls. Previously, many had to spend several hours each day carrying 20 kg buckets on their heads from far away wells and wadis. As an NGO, we emphasized the importance of ensuring that women can use this additional time for their education. In 2007, we received a private donation of 3,000 EUR for a project which will be implemented between February 2008 and July 2008. During this time, we will build four new cisterns in the village of Neiser in the district Shiris Al-Asfal. At the same time, we will offer educational courses including literacy classes for at least 30 women.

2. Social Projects

2.1. Sewing project prison Hajja

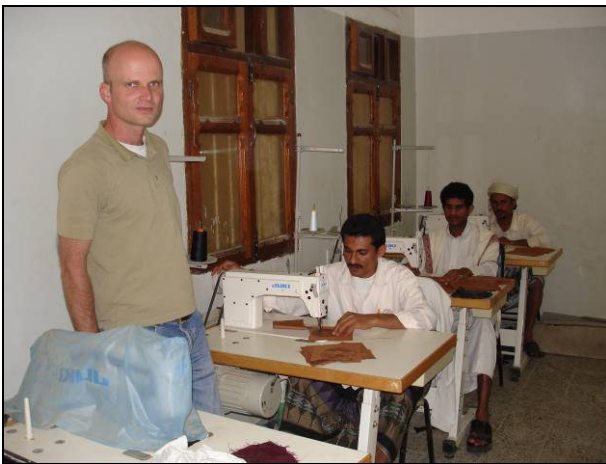
Project duration: May 2007 – continuing

Project partner: Prison Administration Hajja

Project location: Hajja

Project amount: 880 EUR

Project director: Country Representative Berno Heitmann



In May 2007 we began a follow up project to the previous sewing teaching project implemented in the Hajja prison. In this project, four of the prisoners that were trained in the earlier VHI project served as trainers for other prisoners and taught them how to sew jacket/trouser combinations. At the end of the year, 31 jackets and some whole combinations had been sewn. The clothes were sold for a total amount of around 320 EUR. 85 EUR have already been reinvested for new material. The rest of the money as well as some additional donations will be used to buy more material so that the project can continue.

2.2. Orphanage Hajja

Project duration: 2007
Project partner: orphanage Hajja
Project location: Hajja / Aden / Hodeida
Project amount: 1,946 EUR
Project director: Country Representative Berno Heitmann

As we have done in previous years, VHI has continued to be involved in Hajja's local government orphanage. Our intent is to bring some hope into the lives of these boys. We try to do that by helping to create opportunities for them to spend their free time in a creative way. We have also supported the orphanage by purchasing equipment that will be used in teaching the boys skills that will enable them to earn a living later in life. Presently, there are about 80 boys living in the institution.

Most of the donations for the orphanage have been collected during the yearly festival of the Elisabeth orphanage in Havetoft, an institution that has a long history of supporting our work at the Hajja orphanage. We are very grateful for their generous contribution!

2.2.1. Welding project



Our goal was to help the boys in the orphanage obtain basic training in a trade and to open up prospective future income generating possibilities. Therefore, in February 2007, VHI purchased the necessary tools, equipment, and materials for a welding training project. Among the items purchased were a welding machine, an extension cord, an electrical metal saw, a grinder, and a manual metal cutter as well as various kinds of metal. A teacher that is employed at the orphanage began training the boys in the basic skills of welding. VHI Germany previously contributed 468 EUR in 2006, and 13 EUR were donated locally.

Unfortunately, the project did not succeed as we had hoped. A tragedy occurred in the family of the teacher, and he was unable to continue training the children. Furthermore, we had various problems with the welding machine. Apparently, the power supply in the work location was inadequate. Various pieces of equipment also broke down during the project. Since the continuation of the project seems to be unlikely, the current plan is to sell the remaining equipment.

2.2.2. Trip to Aden



VHI carried the bulk of the costs for trip to Aden in the beginning of August 2007. This trip lasted for several days and was organized by our Yemen Country Representative, Berno Heitmann. Through such special activities, we hope to bring some color into the lives of the orphans who otherwise may never have such an opportunity. For the majority of the children and supervising teachers, it was the first time to visit this major city on the Indian Ocean. They especially enjoyed the privilege of swimming in the sea because there are no opportunities to safely swim in Hajja. The only swimming option in Hajja is in the open rainwater cisterns which carry a significant risk of disease. The group also visited the large harbor and a park. The boys enjoyed the trip immensely which they expressed through their happy singing during the bus trip back to Hajja.

We would like to thank all those who donated towards these projects. You made a difference in the lives of these children! VHI Germany supplied 513 EUR towards the expenses and 229 EUR were donated in Hajja.

2.2.3. Trip to Hodeida



Mr. Heitmann planned another trip for the orphans to go to Hodeidah and the Red Sea in January of 2008. VHI Germany has transferred 572 EUR towards this trip and an additional 151 EUR have been covered through local donations.

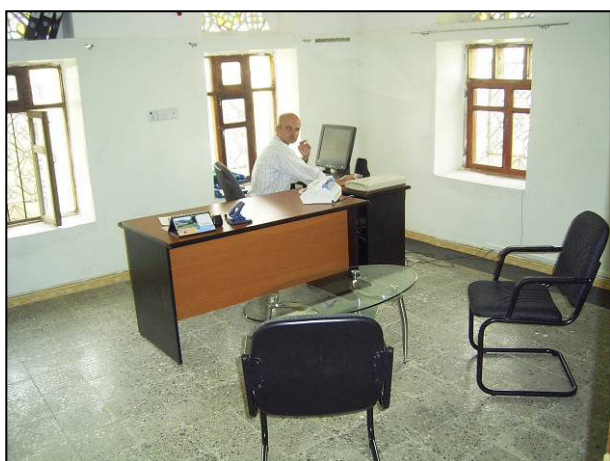
3. Support of the project office in Hajja

Project duration: 2007

Project partner: VHI office Hajja

Project location: Hajja, Yemen

Project amount: 800 EUR



Our NGO rents a project office in Hajja as location where various projects are coordinated and where meetings with our local partners take place. VHI Germany covered 800 EUR towards the running cost of this office in 2007.

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Jamaiyya Mustaqbal

Jamaiyya Mustaqbal is a local NGO (“Charitable Community Association”) whose goal is to work towards the improvement of living conditions among the Yemeni population. Jamaiyya Mustaqbal attempts to reach this goal through the implementation of various projects in cooperation with both locals and foreign development organizations.

This benevolent organization was founded in 2002 by Khalid Al Aliyi with the aims of supporting the suffering population and fighting poverty in the rural district of Hirbe, located in the governorate of Hajja. Since then, they have cooperated with various donor organizations (such as World Bank, BMZ, GTZ, the British and the French Embassy, FAO, Vision Hope International e.V. etc.) and carried out projects in around 200 villages. At this point, the emphasis of these projects has been the rehabilitation and construction of approximately 400 cisterns as well as reforestation with agricultural trees, running of a chicken farm, distribution of water filters, renovation of a health unit and a primary school, and support of a women’s training program which offered courses in basic health, literacy, and sewing.

Jamaiyya Mustaqbal has a few full time employees and a significant number of actively involved volunteers. Some of these people specialize in water harvesting, while others in agriculture and education. The full time employees supervise the different projects and are paid out of respective project funds.

Jamaiyya Nahda

A second local development organization that closely cooperates with VHI is Jamaiyya Nahda. This NGO was founded in 2006 by Jamil Al Ganaasi in Jandala, Hajja governorate. His brother Khalid Al Ganaasi is the bookkeeper of the organization. Jamaiyya Nahda worked with us in 2007 through the implementation of the large cistern project sponsored by the State Foundation Baden-Wuerttemberg and has been a good and trustworthy partner. We are planning to continue cooperation with this NGO in the future.