



Yemen

Accountability

2014/15

Humanitarian assistance and resilience building

The project "Humanitarian Assistance and Resilience Building in Western Yemen" is a two-year project supporting vulnerable communities in Al-Hodeidah and Hajjah governorates. Oxfam and its partners aim to build resilience and provide humanitarian assistance to men, women and children, contributing to reducing the impact of chronic poverty, natural hazards and conflict by:

1. Working to increase the capacity and equality of men and women's access to resources that will help them cope with shocks and stresses
2. Improving community-based disaster preparedness that is supported by responsive governance and civil society
3. Improving the management and the sustainable use of scarce water resources
4. Increased and equitable access to basic services
5. Supporting targeted communities, humanitarian stakeholders and national and local decision makers to increase their knowledge and coordination of how to develop effective and gender sensitive programs addressing disaster response, mitigation and resilience.

The project is working in 42 selected villages in Al-Hodeidah and Hajja governorates with integrated Water, Sanitation and Hygiene activities, unconditional cash transfers, cash for work, food security and livelihoods interventions, and disaster risk reduction, leading to integrated development and a more focused and sustainable impact. Oxfam and its partners work directly with the beneficiary communities throughout the project cycle. The project involves close coordination with the rural water authority, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Social Welfare Fund, Social Fund for Development and other relevant stakeholders. To ensure a community driven process the project is seeking to establish or strengthen existing water management committees, and agricultural and livelihoods groups.

Evaluation Design

Accountability Reviews seek evidence for perceptions of, and make judgments about, the degree to which a project meets Oxfam's standards for accountability. This is with regards to both Oxfam's mutual accountability in our partnerships, and Oxfam and partners' shared accountability to those it works on behalf of. For details on evaluation design, see the 'How are effectiveness reviews carried out?' document, and the full report for how these designs were tailored by individual reviews.

Project date: August 2013 - July 2015

Evaluation: December 2014

Publication: March 2017

Results

	Oxfam's accountability to partners					Oxfam and partners' accountability to communities				
	Score	1	2	3	4	Score	1	2	3	4
Transparency	Oxfam			3		Oxfam/Partner			3.5	
	Partner	1.5				Community	2.5			
	Review team		2			Review team	2			
Feedback	Oxfam		3			Oxfam/Partner			3.5	
	Partner		2.5			Community		3.2		
	Review team			3		Review team			3	
Participation	Oxfam		2.5			Oxfam/Partner			3	
	Partner			2		Community			3.4	
	Review team				3	Review team				3
Overall Accountability	Oxfam	2.8				Oxfam/Partner			3.3	
	Partner			2		Community			3.1	
	Review team				2.7	Review team				2.7

Oxfam to partners - participation.
A partner executive member commented:

'there's irregular communications and meeting'

Oxfam to partners - participation.
A partner staff member, seconded to Oxfam said:

'they (Oxfam Al-Hodeidah staff) didn't ask us to contribute to any key decision related to project planning or any activities' during Oxfam accountability to partners questionnaire workshop

Quotes from project participants have shown their appreciation on attitude of Oxfam staff:

'I remember, when the agricultural land was damaged by floods, we informed Oxfam staff who responded and action was taken immediately'

Male Key Informant Interview

'Oxfam staff always encouraged our efforts and they do their best to clarify any confusion, one of the beneficiaries was annoyed as they took his name out of Cash for Work list. Then Oxfam staff explained the reason as his wife is already on the list of Cash for Work too, and it's not allowed for couple to be in the same list'

Focus Group Discussion – Male group

Community satisfaction related to the question:
'How useful is the project to people?'

'Everybody benefited from the project'

Female Key Informant Interview

'Our village becomes clean because of cutting the prickly trees. Our houses as well because of health sessions. Oxfam generate income for poor people'

Focus Group Discussion – Female group

'I got vocational training in mobile phone maintenance, people from my village and the neighbours come to my house to fix their mobiles'

Male Key Informant Interview

Key Commitments

- Oxfam and partners will hold a reflection workshop to sensitize our staff about our responsibility to be accountable in our partnerships - this will improve our working relationships and promote dialogue between Oxfam and partners.
- The partnership strategy will be revised to promote the participation of partners (and therefore communities) and to improve information sharing.
- Oxfam will set up a feedback mechanism between itself and partners which ensures that the feedback loop is closed (complaints get dealt with and this is communicated appropriately) and responses are timely.
- The partnership strategy will examine how to expand Oxfam's partnership portfolio beyond existing partners.

Photo credit: Anwar Hajeb/Oxfam