

**PROJECT INFORMATION DOCUMENT (PID)  
ADDITIONAL FINANCING**

Report No.: PIDA6768

<b>Project Name</b>	RY Higher Education Quality Improvement Project - Additional Financing (P150129)
<b>Parent Project Name</b>	RY Higher Education Quality Improvement (P110733)
<b>Region</b>	MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA
<b>Country</b>	Yemen, Republic of
<b>Sector(s)</b>	Tertiary education (100%)
<b>Theme(s)</b>	Education for the knowledge economy (90%), Education for all (10%)
<b>Lending Instrument</b>	Investment Project Financing
<b>Project ID</b>	P150129
<b>Parent Project ID</b>	P110733
<b>Borrower(s)</b>	MoPIC
<b>Implementing Agency</b>	MOHESR PMU
<b>Environmental Category</b>	C-Not Required
<b>Date PID Prepared/Updated</b>	21-May-2014
<b>Date PID Approved/Disclosed</b>	22-Jul-2014
<b>Estimated Date of Appraisal Completion</b>	
<b>Estimated Date of Board Approval</b>	15-Sep-2014
<b>Decision</b>	

**I. Project Context**

**Country Context**

In 2011, Yemen experienced mass protests, violent clashes, and armed conflict that resulted in the election of a new President and the formation of a transitional government. The conflict situation caused significant disruptions in the supply and production chains and this resulted in contraction of the economy and higher unemployment. Poverty, which was already increasing prior to the crisis, is estimated to have risen further from 42 percent of the population in 2009 to 54.5 percent in 2012. Yemen remains one of the ten most food insecure countries in the world and the most food insecure country in the Middle East North Africa (MENA) Region.

Following the crisis in 2011, Yemen has embarked on a political transition, based on an agreement brokered by the Gulf Cooperation Council. The transitional government – known as the Government of National Reconciliation – was formed early in 2012 and the National Dialog Conference (NDC) was launched to support development of a new constitution under which new legislative and presidential elections would be held in 2014. Donor funding was pledged (Riyadh

Donor Conference in September 2012) to support the government's ambitious Transitional Program for Stabilization and Development but the program faces severe constraints in absorptive capacity. The NDC ended in February 2014 with the signature of a series of agreements by the participating parties, resulting in proposals for the decentralization of government in a federal structure. So far, the process has been implemented broadly as originally planned, albeit with a delay of about four months. Nevertheless, the gains are fragile and important challenges remain in addressing the underlying causes of instability and social strife. The transition faces high risks unless reforms and economic opportunities materialize quickly and substantive changes are felt by the population.

### **Sectoral and institutional Context**

The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MOHESR) developed a National Strategy for the Development in 2006 to address necessary conditions for improving quality and relevance in the higher education system currently absent due to: (i) a weak capacity to undertake sector planning; (ii) an absence of monitoring and evaluation; (iii) an absence of quality assurance systems at either the central or institutional level; (iv) poor teaching and learning facilities such as electronic infrastructure which limits university students' ability to access to global resources; (v) low qualifications of faculty members; and (vi) the absence of financial autonomy in public universities due to central centralized control of financial resources by the Ministry of Finance. A plan of activities was prepared, focusing on the following four areas of reform: (i) governance and management; (ii) diversification of institutions and programs; (iii) financial resources; and (iv) quality improvement.

## **II. Proposed Development Objectives**

### **A. Current Project Development Objectives – Parent**

The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to create enabling conditions for the enhancement of quality of university programs and graduate employability.

## **III. Project Description**

### **Component Name**

Component 1: Quality Improvement for University Programs

### **Comments (optional)**

The proposed AF of US\$3,000,000 will be added to Component 1 to fill a financing gap for the procurement of priority lab equipment and tools.

### **Component Name**

Component 2: Quality Assurance

### **Comments (optional)**

### **Component Name**

Component 3: Institutional Capacity Development

### **Comments (optional)**

### **Component Name**

Component 4: Monitoring and Evaluation and Project Management  
**Comments (optional)**

**IV. Financing (in USD Million)**

Total Project Cost:	3.00	Total Bank Financing:	3.00
Financing Gap:	0.00		
<b>For Loans/Credits/Others</b>			<b>Amount</b>
BORROWER/RECIPIENT			0.00
IDA Grant			3.00
Total			3.00

**V. Implementation**

The parent project Higher Education Quality Improvement Project (HEQIP) is bringing about a paradigm shift to the sector in relation to: (i) the linkages between university program design and delivery and the job market, and (ii) the development of a quality assurance culture. The proposed additional financing will fill a financing gap associated with the procurement of lab equipment and tools under Component 1 (the Quality Improvement Programs) of the project. Identifying alternative funding sources has become progressively difficult due to challenging conditions in the country, including insufficient funding for higher education in general and a waiver of the parallel program fees in universities in particular. This lab equipment and tools are critical for the students to acquire the practical set of skills required to enhance their employability in order to achieve the project objectives.

**VI. Safeguard Policies (including public consultation)**

<b>Safeguard Policies Triggered by the Project</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01		x
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04		x
Forests OP/BP 4.36		x
Pest Management OP 4.09		x
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11		x
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10		x
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12		x
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37		x
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50		x
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60		x

**Comments (optional)**

**VII. Contact point**

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