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<td>CID</td>
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<td>CPO</td>
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Introduction

Interest in Women and Development (WAD) as part of development cooperation activities with the Yemen Arab Republic (Yemen) has been increasing in recent years. The Dutch Government pays special attention to women in its development cooperation work. Yemen enjoys the status of programme country. More insight into and knowledge about the situation of women is essential to continue and expand WAD activities in Yemen.

In order to facilitate the use of the available information, main sources on Women and Development written between 1975 - 1988 are summarized in this paper.

In a separate report an overview is given of all reports, articles and books in western languages that could be traced and which contain information about (aspects of) the lives of women in the Yemen Arab Republic, in alphabetical order and for most references also per subject. In order to facilitate the use of these sources by interested parties, finding-places in Yemen are listed underneath a references wherever possible.

These reports have been compiled first of all for the women working in Dutch/Yemeni development cooperation activities. They requested assistance in obtaining knowledge regarding women in order to improve the outcome of their

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1 An overview of current knowledge, activities and developing ideas regarding WAD in Yemen is given in J. Buringa, 1988, Yemeni Women in Transition, how Development Cooperation fits in The Hague/DGIS

2 J. Buringa, 1988, Bibliography on women in the Yemen Arab Republic The Hague/DGIS
work to a Dutch WAD mission, visiting Yemen from October 28 until November 14, 1986. Naturally, it is of interest to all Yemeni and expatriate individuals and institutions dealing with women's issues.

I would like to express my gratitude to SNV, BOCD, Oxfam, British Council, AIYS, Yemeni Center for Research Studies, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, USAID, Unicef, Tihama Primary Health Care Project, UNDP as well as unnamed individuals for their kind and generous assistance. Special thanks are due to Ms. Audrey Dibble, the former librarian at the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, who has helped me tremendously by providing references, enthusiasm and support.
ADRA, Najwa

The impact of male migration on women's roles in agriculture in the Yemen Arab Republic (Paper prepared for the Inter-Country Experts meeting on Women in Food Production, Amman, Jordan, October 22–26, 1983)/1983 75pp

A combination of fieldwork periods of varying duration in different areas of Yemen with interviews of Yemeni and expatriate experts and a survey of the available literature lead to more qualitative than quantitave data. The intention is to gain in-depth understanding of the impact of male migration on women's role in agriculture also because statistical data in Yemen are rather scarce.

Demographic data is presented from the 1975 census, which shows that 86.6% of the population is living in settlements with less than 1000 inhabitants. Larger settlements are referred to as towns by locals. In these hamlets households form the basis for subsistence economic activities. This study is concerned with the influence of male migration on women in these villages.

A prolonged drought in the late 1960s and early 1970s forcing Yemenis of their land combined with Aden's independence in 1967, which reduces work opportunities there, stimulates male migration to Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States, where many jobs and high salaries are available due to the oil boom. Migration is not a new phenomenon however, as Yemenis have always migrated to other parts of the world.

During the census of 1975 close to 30% of Yemeni households contains a male member abroad, but regional variation is considerable. The highest numbers come from Ibb and Taiz, but the highest percentages are found in Bayda Governorate around Rada. This labour-migration results in a lack of manpower
and an increase in cash through remittances. The highest level has been officially estimated at $1.4 billion for 1977/1978. Rural areas start to have much more money at their disposal, whereas the government remains short on funds.

Women's agricultural activities, which value is evidenced by the high rural bride price, can only become clear by asking detailed questions. Division of labour is influenced by the type of agriculture and irrigation practiced. Only growing qat is solely a male activity.

Spring-irrigation shows the most equal input of men and women. Most agricultural production (over 80%) solely relies on rainfall. In these areas women work harder than men. Irrigation of cultivated land may also be done by tubewells and by using spates. Looking after livestock, with the exception of camels and oxen, is the responsibility of women. In extended households women can share the work between themselves and take over from each other in times of illness and pregnancy. This possibility does not exist for women in nuclear families.

Marketing is usually done by men (with a notable exception of women from Jebl Sabr), although women may be sell their own products. Livestock is often sold by men, after their wives have made the decision. Women also control their own property which consists of liquid capital: livestock, jewellery, and income from for instance handicrafts. Any money she earns is hers to spend as she wishes.

One of the consequences of male migration has been that the resulting remittances offered women the possibility to buy food stuffs and to refrain from agricultural activities. Household work has become easier by the purchase of generators and consumer goods like thermosflasks, stoves, metal cooking
pots and possibly by the implementation of water schemes. It has become heavier by the more frequent washing of clothes and the introduction of more vegetables to the diet.

Male migration has been highest from rainfed agricultural areas, but due to a reduction of cultivated land, a decrease in domestic workload as outlined above and a decrease in the number of livestock has led to a situation where women's workload in total has remained more or less unchanged. In areas of tubewell irrigation, where new crops are often introduced, women have faced a heavier workload. In the spate-irrigated areas of the Tihama male migration has led women to take over men's tasks.

Remittances and increased bride price have caused a substantial increase in women's material well-being, with the exception of poor women who have already worked for a wage. Their mobility decreases along with their workload. Returning migrants also place a higher value on women's seclusion. The absence of men has initially meant that women are left with relatively more decision-making power. This tendency is countered by the effects over a longer period.

Older women in areas where qat cultivation has replaced a substantial proportion of grain agriculture express resentment toward qat production. They complain that there is no longer sufficient fodder for their livestock, that their current diet does not have the flavor of their tasty traditionally-grown grains. Their complaints seem spurious until one realizes that they are lamenting the loss of a much deeper involvement in economic and political affairs than they now have.

(Aдра 1983:39)

Casestudies are presented from Ahjur, Rada' and Taiz to illustrate the
influence of male's migration on women's agricultural work. In Ahjur relatively few men have gone abroad. Increasing prosperity has led to a greater demand for qat, an entirely male undertaking. Combined with a decrease in domestic workload, women's lives in Ahjur have actually become easier although they are not pleased with their reduced mobility.

The area of Rada' has known very high male migration rates since 1940 due to the structural lack of water, the scarcity of jobs and political unrest. In agriculture women are accustomed to have total responsibility, with the exception of plowing and marketing. Male migration has therefore not had a major impact on their workload.

The last casestudy of Gharaba near Taiz reveals that male migration has only started very recently. Being self-sufficient on food and having little surplus to sell, the amount of money and the number of consumer goods in the village are limited. There is no evidence of investment of remittances in schools, petrol stations, mosques etc.

Agricultural extension should start to include women as well, through training female agents, sensitizing male extension agents to women's role in agriculture, stimulating insight at training centers and contributions to schools' curricula. Home economics lessons for women should be combined with agricultural extension. Women's workload needs to be decreased by reducing the time and energy needed for collecting domestic fuel, for dairy production, for preparing new foods and for grain mills. Women should also be taught to operate a tractor and tubewells.

Women are responsible for livestock. They take all the decisions and therefore any attempt to increase livestock production should be directed at women. This
would include vaccination campaigns, an improved supply of fodder, threshers to cut the fodder (as cows often need to be handfed), education and new varieties.

As men are doing most of the marketing, a system should be designed which would increase women's access to distribution and sale of their produce. Education for women on market demands, including those of handicrafts, is suggested. A special effort should be made to reach the people that are not benefitting from recent prosperity through remittances.

In order to reach rural women care should be taken to have extension agents approach women through a trusted intermediary. Older women are more suitable to be trained as extension agents. It is suggested to use video and cassette tapes with local scenes, people and dialect. Rural women's literacy should be promoted and their feedback sought on any activities aimed at them.

ADRA, Najwa

Suggestions for increasing the involvement of women in agriculture education activities and for increasing the impact of secondary agriculture in Yemen on women farmers (Report to CID/Sana'a)/1984 18pp

The Ibb Secondary Agriculture Institute (SAI) has requested reports for the design of extension activities. This report is the third out of a series of three. Female agriculture extension activities are a relatively recent phenomenon in Yemen and have tended to emphasize home economics more than agricultural activities. To rectify this the Southern Uplands Rural Development Project (SURDP) has requested the Ibb SAI for supervision.
The Ibb SAI has been involved in organizing short training courses for women since 1982. Co-educational training is culturally unacceptable after primary school level which means that alternative training possibilities need to be explored. A full-time coordinator at the Ibb school is recommended to this end. Training activities should be set up together with those of SURDP. The possibility for summer courses for women could be explored.

Reaching rural women is difficult, since female extension agents tend to be from urban areas and women's mobility is limited. It is suggested that older women in their 30's and 40's are selected for training. Male students at the Ibb school need to be sensitized to women's issues. The experiences gained can be used for setting up similar programmes outside the Ibb/Taiz area. The five Yemeni women being educated in Egypt can be used for training rural women. A secondary agricultural training institute for women is recommended and/or the adding of agricultural subjects in existing secondary schools. It is also possible to add a women's section to a secondary agricultural institute.

ADRA, Najwa and Bilquis Al-Dabbi

Situation analysis women Sana'a/Unicef/1986 159pp

The socio-cultural and economic contexts of women's lives in contemporary Yemen is outlined in order to increase participation of women in development activities.

Boys are not strongly favoured over girls in Yemen, which is also reflected in parental care although in time girls will carry more responsibilities than boys. Clitoridectomy, which is found in the Tihama region, is not supported by
the government. First marriages at an early age are very common and will usually be arranged by the respective parents. Producing offspring is seen as very important by society at large. Divorce which, except in special circumstances, can officially only be asked for by the man is common. Polygamy is not widespread with approximately 95% of the married men having one wife in 1975.

Massive male migration to the oil-states and the resulting shortage of labour have an important impact on the subsistence economy of rural Yemen. Increasing affluence has stimulated the import of large quantities of consumer goods, the establishment of banks and commercial enterprises and a change to cash-crop agriculture. In contrast to other areas in the world, most of rural Yemen has benefitted extensively from the sending of remittances. Absolute poverty is rare.

Urban and rural areas differ in that the mobility of women is more restricted and dresscode more conservative in urban areas. In the latter women are employed in all sectors. They tend to be either well educated or working out of economic necessity. A 1983 CPO study showed that of the rural women 72.4% can be classified as economically active. When working for a wage, rural women tend to earn less than men, although officially they should be paid the same wage.

Working women in Yemen face dual responsibilities of domestic tasks and economic activities outside the home. Women in the formal labour force encounter problems regarding the short maternity leave coupled with the small number of day care centers. Little is known about women in the informal labour force.
Yemeni women own land, although exact data are unavailable, and obtain an income through marketing agricultural produce, handicrafts etc. It is not uncommon for women to leave management of their property to men, although women will decide themselves on how they want to spend their money. Marketing is usually done by men. Women's participation in marketing is greatest in the Tihama. Agricultural and livestock extension aimed at women is still in its infancy.

Household chores have been relieved by the introduction of stoves, electricity, easier access to water etc. The most strenuous tasks for women are fetching water and firewood, followed by handfeeding cows and dairy production. Most rural women experience more prosperity than ever before. In recent years an economic recession has hit Yemen. Its impact on women is still unknown. Due to an increase in cashcropping and concomitant decrease in subsistence agriculture, it is to be expected that women's status will decline.

The illiteracy rate for males is 57.9% in 1981, compared to 92.5% for women. Nonformal educational campaigns are being organized. Problems identified include the absence of specific training for teaching adults, the irrelevance of textbooks to the daily lives of rural people, lack of time, lack of reading material. There are no legal restrictions on girls attending school. 15% of primary school students are female in 1983. Secondary schools are gender-segregated. No girls are enrolled in agricultural secondary schools, but 25% of the students in business schools, 39% of those in teacher training schools and 13% at Sana'a University are female.

Main health problems for women are related to childbearing. Infant and
maternal mortality rates are high (159 and 10 per 1000). Home deliveries, the habitual carrying of heavy loads and childhood rickets leading to pelvic deformations contribute to delivery problems. Another problem is caused by too early and too many pregnancies, exhausting the female body. Malnutrition and anaemia are common. Due to rising standards of living and increasing import of food stuffs, dietary practices are changing. Smoky kitchens and the prevailing dresscode also affect women's health. In order to visit a modern health care facility a woman needs to be accompanied by a man.

In a major part of the rural area fetching water is a time-consuming and tiring task. In households with a limited supply of water, personal washing is limited. Men often have the option to wash themselves in the mosque. In the highlands houses tend to have a latrine. It is suggested that appropriate improvements are made instead of supporting the flush-toilet ideal.

A need for further research is expressed in the areas of poverty, women's training needs, income-generating activities and credit needs. In the area of health, more information is needed to design a programme to combat high maternal mortality rates, malnutrition and nutritional deficiencies. Insight is necessary into how women use modern health facilities. Assistance to the Yemeni Women's Associations is recommended. For rural women reducing workloads may be vital before they are able to profit from extension, education or the availability of health services.

As an annex an overview is presented on the situation of children in Yemen. The infant mortality rate has steadily declined since the 1962 revolution, but remains high at 173.5 per 1000. Studies focusing on children are relatively rare. The nutrition survey (of 1979, jb) showed that chronic malnutrition is most common in the northern highlands, whereas acute malnutrition is most
often seen in the Tihama. Anaemia levels are also highest among inhabitants of the Tihama.

Other sources of information consist of studies done by the Swedish Save the Children Fund in 1971-1972 in different areas of the country. 215 children out of 1000 live births were found to die before the age of 5. Most likely causes of death include malnutrition and gastroenteritis. 40% of the children checked were anaemic.

In the Rada’ area a study has been conducted during 1978-1979. The number of infants dying before the age of 5 has decreased from 400 to 200 in urban Rada’. FAO sponsored a study in 1972 in a Tihama village. 40% of all children born died before the age of 15. A more recent study by Gascoigne in the Tihama town of Abs (1983) shows similar figures.

In general it can be said that the infant mortality rate, even after significant decrease, remains high esp. in the Tihama. Infants appear most healthy in the period before they are six months old, when they are probably still breastfed. More infants die in rural towns than in villages. It is suggested that this may be caused by inadequate bottlefeeding. Lastly, there is a relation between low birth weight and survival chances.

Malnutrition is not necessarily caused by poverty. A study by Underwood and Underwood in Wadi Rima (Tihama) shows that childhood malnutrition and rickets are more prevalent in relatively well-to-do families. Underlying ideas about feeding and rearing of children are more likely a contributing factor. In the past, breastfeeding for up to two years has been the norm. During the 1970s rapidly increasing bottlefeeding replaces breastfeeding with negative consequences for infants' survival chances. Solid foods are often introduced too
late into the child's diet. Another problem has come up in the 1970s by the massive increase in sugar consumption, causing dental decay in children.

The major cause of death for young children is diarrhoea and the resulting dehydration exacerbated by poor sanitary conditions. It is followed by measles and neonatal tetanus. When parents decide to seek medical aid, they are just as likely to visit a traditional healer as a medically trained health worker. Malnutrition, especially in combination with diseases as mentioned, has to be combatted by paying attention to an improved water supply, better nutrition as well as attitudinal changes.

ANSELL, Christine

Domestic water use in a subdistrict of Mahweit province. Applied research report number 2. Sana'a/American Save the Children/1980 16pp

In Mahweit each household is responsible for its domestic water supply, and within the household almost invariably the women collect water from wells, cisterns, etc. and oversee its distribution. Water is carried in 20 liter containers on the head, which constitutes the maximum weight a woman's body can handle on a regular basis.

Once collected in a jerrycan (dubba), water may be stored in a variety of objects like bowls, buckets, barrels or the object in which it is transported. Drinking water is kept in a clay jug. For small babies boiled water is stored in a thermos flask. Great care is taken to keep water clean by covering it and by routinely cleaning storage objects. Women usually use a cup to take water from storage to control the amount of water used.
Women's knowledge about and categorization of water is much more extensive than men's. For the latter the main distinction lies between potable and non-potable water. Men do not share in any household tasks that require water and habitually wash themselves at the mosque. Both men and women believe that clean water equates clear water and also, that water older than one day is no longer fresh. Water that is not clean and fresh is only reluctantly used in times of drought.

In the subdistrict Argub water apparently has always been scarce, which has led the women to carefully use and re-use of the water available. Men and male guests are entitled to clean water first. Women and children drink the quantity and quality present. A restricted supply of water puts limitations on women's social life in the afternoon, which requires the presence of qishr (Yemeni coffee). The limited water intake may also be due to the difficulty for women to find a place to urinate during the daytime. Children with diarrhea or measles are denied water and will not be washed.

It is recommended that drinking water projects are combined with education regarding hygiene and sanitation specifically aimed at women. The classification of water used by the women should be used to promote modern ideas. American Save the Children is preparing an educational methodology.

ANSELL, Christine and Robert Burrowes

*Communicating hygiene/sanitation messages to villagers: an experiment in Wadi Ayyan Sana'a/American Save the Children/1981 55pp*

An improvement in the domestic water supply is organized together with a
hygiene/sanitation campaign in a subdistrict of Mahweit for the first time in Yemen. It is stressed that setting up a health education campaign aimed at illiterate people requires a very different approach than one directed at literate persons.

The technical part consists of protecting an important spring, building storage space and improving the distribution. It has been prepared with and approved by the local authorities. The educational campaign is planned for eight weeks and aims to reach approximately 300 people scattered over 8 villages in Wadi Ayyan. The geographical layout on the border of the Tihama and the Highlands enforces the image of enclosior. Within the area women move about freely. No western medical care facilities are available in Wadi Ayyan. The closest health practitioner can be found at three hours walking distance. Life in Wadi Ayyan may be characterized as austere and efficient use is made of the environment for people's needs.

As far as personal hygiene is concerned, people wash themselves and their children regularly with little water. Sick children are not bathed. Women make extensive use of locally available natural cosmetics and seem quite abhorred about 'only using soap'. Floors in houses usually consist of soil, which hampers hygiene and cleanliness. The situation is aggravated by the presence of animals in the living space. Most houses have a designated area for defecation and urination, but no toilet or latrine.

The campaign is first discussed with and approved by the Khabt Local Development Association, before the villages are contacted. In Wadi Ayyan, contact with male village leaders and their cooperation is sought, before actually reaching out to the women. Verbal advertisement proves to be much more important than expected. In each village a local assistant is taken on in
an informal selection process. These women, by their association with the educator, can potentially continue and reinforce the campaign.

Through the technical improvements people are made aware of the campaign. On the other hand, no village in particular feels responsible for the spring. The educational materials used include a tape cassette of seven minutes in three parts separated by Yemeni music. Information is given by a man as well as a woman in the Sana'ni dialect explaining the project and discussing a few health messages for instance on the need to wash children also when they are ill.

Furthermore, there are drawn pictures and two sets of photographs. The tape cassette proves to be most acceptable and effective. Yet women have difficulty concentrating even for a few minutes and grasping the meaning of the words they understand. References to the local spring are very good for catching attention. Men listen attentively to a male voice they identify as coming from the government, whereas women do not pay attention to this section. It is stressed that listening and understanding are not necessarily the same.

Drawings are very good for first getting attention, but have as disadvantage that according to Islam visual images are not allowed. The drawings used depicted urban scenes which are not relevant to women in Wadi Ayyan. Also, women have no experience in understanding drawings and pictures. It may take them great effort to analyse the lines and shapes but the message is probably lost on them. Pictures and drawings therefore necessitate a carefully prepared explanation.

Health educators are advised to carry official government papers explaining their activities. A group receiving instruction ideally should not comprise
more than five persons. Tape cassettes are preferred and should only contain a few messages at the time. Using visual educational materials is strongly discouraged with illiterate people.

AWAD, Balkis

Girls' and women's education in the Yemen Arab Republic Sana'a/1986 9pp

The National Literacy campaign, started in 1982/3, has as its aim to decrease the number of illiterate men by 1.106.000 and of women by 1.710.000. These ambitions are motivated by prevailing illiteracy rates, estimated at 75% for males and 98% for females between 10 - 45 years.

By providing daily classes in the afternoon for 2 years to obtain basic literacy, with a possible follow-up of 2 years during which primary school level can be attained, this goal is to be realized. However, the drop-out rate for women has been estimated at 50% out of 20.000 enrollments in 1985/1986. For men figures are better, probably because they are taught at their workplace.

Women increasingly express an interest in learning to read and write, but due to lack of finances (which is a general problem) and qualified female teachers, the number of services offered is limited. Although the target group consists of adult women, outside Sana'a the participation of a large group of primary school girls is seen. The curriculum has been designed for older females but needs improvement regarding living skills. Didactics can be improved. Ideas to use television as teaching medium have not yet resulted in concrete programs. It is recommended to establish such programs after thorough preparation.
Between October 1986 and March 1987, the Dhamar Rural Health Project (DRHP) carried out a study to determine the causes of protein-energy malnutrition (PEM) of young children in its project area of rural Dhamar. The results of the study, contained in this report, will be used by DRHP to plan nutrition interventions and to structure its training of primary health care (PHC) workers and trained birth attendants (TBA).

The study looked very broadly at a large number of possible determinants of protein energy-malnutrition present at the village, household, and individual level. It was organized into three phases, in each of which were used different types of data collection procedures and analyses in order to gain as balanced and complete a picture of childhood malnutrition as possible. The sample chosen were four village clusters representing widely varying social and geographic circumstances in rural Dhamar.

All 3 to 36 month old children in these four areas became the sample for Phase I, the anthropometric survey, in which level and pattern of childhood malnutrition were assessed. In Phase II, samples of men and women in each of the four villages were selected for groups interviews, and various aspects of village life were observed in order to gain an understanding of knowledge, attitudes, practices and circumstances related to childhood PEM. In Phase III, the 102 'best' and 'worst' nourished children (24-28 from each village) were selected to become the subsample whose parents were interviewed intensively in order to test hypotheses made in Phase II on causes of malnutrition.
resulting data were subjected to descriptive, numerical descriptive, and cor relational analyses.

It was discovered that the overall level of malnutrition is high, with 48% of all children either stunted, wasted, or both. The most common condition is stunting, which affects 39% of all children from 3 to 36 months old. There is significant variation between villages, the prevalence of malnutrition ranging from 37% to 72%.

The ten factors judged in this study to be most important in their effect on nutrition status include frequency of infectious disease (esp. diarrhoea), food intake during illness, prenatal factors, birth interval and time demands of the mother as major factors. Intermediate factors are age at introduction of solid foods, age at weaning from the breast/use of breastmilk supplements, child's general eating behaviour, frequency of non-diarrhoeal disease and socio-economic status. Disease-related as well as maternal variables are the principal ones responsible for malnutrition, pure food-intake variables being somewhat less important.

Although some of these factors are stronger than others, none stand out as being of overwhelming importance in comparison to the rest. Instead, malnutrition in rural Dhamar has multiple direct and indirect causes, many of which are interrelated. Interventions which concentrate on a single factor are thus unlikely to show any effect because the relative contribution of one factor is comparatively small.

Another important conclusion of this study is that the high risk period for general health as well as malnutrition is the prenatal period and the first year of life. 27% of all childhood deaths occur within the first month of
life; 71% within the first year. Malnutrition also begins early, with 37% of the sample already malnourished before reaching the age of one year, and 45% described as being small from birth. (Authors' summary)

BORNSTEIN, Annika

Food and society in the Yemen Arab Republic Rome/FAO/1974 72pp

This report, based on two years of fieldwork in different areas of Yemen, has become a classic in its field. Its premise is that nutritional status is closely linked with social and physical environment and therefore a detailed description is given of this context. Surveys consist of an extensive questionnaire, usually administered to the women, with the assistance of a Yemeni female translator.

Although Yemeni agriculture is still mainly of the subsistence type in 1974, cashcrops have long been known, notably coffee (at that time major export earner) and qat. Farmers prefer to sell produce through a middle-man, instead of personally. Cereals form the bulk of agricultural produce, while the production of vegetables and fruit production is minimal. Most agricultural tasks, except for the heaviest, are shared between men and women. Due to a lack of adequate storage facilities the marketing of fish is limited.

More than half of the households surveyed consist of nuclear families, with extended families at second place. Domestic water supply forms a major problem for households. The level of hygiene leaves much to be desired. Women are responsible for household chores, but men do all the shopping, buying and selling. They also take all the important decisions. Women's role may differ
from village to village however.

In Yemeni villages social cohesion is such that nobody will die of hunger, yet it is to be expected that the nutritional status of poor urban residents is worse. Diet is affected by the consumption of softdrinks, biscuits, white rice and white bread. Biscuits have become a favourite weaning food. Prolonged male absence may negatively affect the wellbeing of women and children through increasing their workload, in turn making it more difficult for women to breastfeed etc. Yemen, being a moslem society, forbids the consumption of pork, alcohol and other drugs.

Important for understanding Yemeni eating patterns is further, that foods are put in categories of hot/cold/dry/humid, based on the medical ideas originally ascribed to Hippocrates. These categories also form the basis for understanding illness and disease, although the influence of western concepts is increasing.

Many young children are malnourished. Up to about 6 months of age weights are higher per age than afterwards. In the different surveys put together, only 15% was found to have a satisfying nutritional status. The situation is worst in the Tihama. Severe cases of malnutrition in children may lead to marasmus. Kwashiorkor is rare in Yemen. School-age children tend to be better fed. They eat along with the family, whereas often no special provisions are made for the little ones.

The trend towards cashcropping has negative implications for the nutritional status of rural Yemenis, which traditionally is quite monotonous and inadequate. This situation may be worsened through changing agricultural trends. The system of sharecropping and land tenure works against a healthy rural
population. Education about health and nutrition is essential to combat malnutrition, esp. of children which is seen as a big problem. Education should be targeted at men and women both.

In an annex an overview is given of Yemeni terms of food items as well as a list of recipes of common Yemeni dishes.

BURINGA, Joke

Yemeni women in transition. How development cooperation could fit in The Hague/DGIS 1988 108 pp

The question on Women and Development (WAD) is briefly described from an international perspective, starting with the first International Conference on Women’s Issues held in Mexico City, in 1975, and ending with the official meetings held in Nairobi (Kenya) in 1985, which resulted in the Forward Looking Strategies.

Since this report is written within the framework of Dutch-Yemeni development cooperation activities, an overview of both Dutch and Yemeni WAD policy is presented. Although neither the Yemeni government nor donor organisations active in Yemen has yet systematically formulated its views on WAD, women’s issues do receive some attention in successive five-year development plans, mainly regarding women’s participation in the formal labour force. The outcome of national and international discussions by the Dutch Government resulted in the formulation of the following guidelines in 1987: to contribute to an improvement in women’s position through their active participation, which is meant to be realised through their integration in the three sectors of rural
development, industrial development and the informal sector, as well as education and research.

The Yemen Arab Republic is undergoing rapid change from a subsistence-based economy to a commercial one. Before the Revolution on September 26, 1962 the country was ruled by Imam Yahya who maintained a delicate balance of power with influential and unruly tribes. For an understanding of the background against which Yemeni society, in general, and the lives of women, in particular, are changing, it is important to keep in mind its history, demography, geography, religious make-up, tribal division and structure, as well as the wider geopolitical situation and recent economic developments (including the return of migrant workers and the start of oil exports in December 1987).

A small part of mainly urban Yemeni women is organised in branches of the Yemeni Women's Association. These generally offer courses in literacy and further education, typing, handicrafts etc. An overview is given of donor organisations' current WAD activities, including most inputs involving women. Attention to WAD in Yemen seems to be only a recent phenomenon.

According to a 1982 CPO study, 68% of Yemeni females over 10 years of age can be considered economically active, with 98.5% of these working in agriculture and livestock, accounting for 70-75% of all activities in these two areas. Although the number of women in the formal labour force is increasing, it is still small, at 1.5% in 1982. The influence of male migration on women's workload differs per area. At present many males are returning due to a decrease in job opportunities in the neighbouring oil-rich states. The impact of this return on women's lives, workload, decision-making power etc. has not yet been studied.
The number of boys and girls in schools is increasing rapidly, but at an uneven rate, with the gap between boys and girls widening. There are now roughly four times as many boys enrolled in primary schools than girls. This is caused by a shortage both of classrooms and female teachers as well as parents' uneasiness with literate daughters.

Women's main health problems are related to the early start of many short-spaced pregnancies, possibly resulting in delivery complications and maternal depletion. This may be aggravated by the carrying of heavy loads, rickets and an increase in nutrition-related problems e.g. through a changing diet. Obtaining safe drinking water constitutes a big problem. Also, women's health is seen to be closely interrelated with that of their children. Malnutrition in children is a widespread phenomenon caused by a number of factors.

Weddings and birthings are important rituals in women's lives. Within tribal societies women have been held in high regard and had considerable influence, although they have no outside role as representatives of the tribe. For these women, modernisation may result in more restricted mobility and reduced influence in local affairs. Their legal position is determined by Islamic law, largely based on the Koran, as well as customary law, based on the concept of tribal honour.

Considering the work done by rural women (80% of the total population lives in the countryside), it is recommended that women's workload be decreased and that their working circumstances be improved, especially with respect to the following: domestic water use and sanitation, domestic energy, livestock, agriculture and child-spacing. It is postulated that when women have more time and energy, they could become interested in extension, (health) education and
income-generating activities.

Currently, the available data on women in Yemen are found with individual donor organisations: they have no widespread circulation and are written mostly in Western languages. It is therefore proposed to establish a Women's Documentation Centre, possibly attached to the Yemeni Center for Research Studies, to serve as a reference and resource base for a network of Yemeni and expatriate committed to WAD issues. Furthermore, as training in WAD theory and also in research methodologies are needed, recommendations are made to stimulate Yemeni expertise in these skills, especially amongst women in policy-making positions.

CARAPICO, Sheila and Sharon Hart

Women's economic activities in Mahweet, Tawila and Jihana Regions Sana'a/USAID and CYDA/1977 12pp

Poultry raising is an important activity in each area. In Tawila women sell their chickens at the market. 'Baladi' chickens are much preferred to imported ones. However, they are scrawny and do not produce many eggs. Extension aimed at women could improve the quality of the chickens and the quantity of the eggs.

Cows do not produce much milk, maybe a pint twice a day. Collecting fodder and handfeeding the household cow is very time-consuming. A female veterinarian may be helpful in reducing the number of animals dying and in increasing the amount of milk. Goats and sheep are herded by small children and/or older women.
Female agricultural activities are limited by the size of their household. It takes two women to do the necessary chores for a household of six to eight persons. Only when there are three or four women in the household, one can engage in agricultural work. Men are expected to increasingly look for other sources to obtain cash (migration), which entails that women will take over more tasks and therefore should be reached by agricultural extensionists. Children and women collect manure, particularly in areas like Jihana, where fuel wood is scarce. Health conditions are terrible. Infant mortality rates are estimated at 47% in rural areas. Many children are sick with gastrointestinal diseases. An MCH-clinic is recommended to stimulate improved nutrition and personal hygiene.

Collecting water is hard work. Most watersources are contaminated. In Mahweet Governorate approximately two-third of the households mention streams as their main water source. Women in Mahweet like to see water closer to their homes. In the dryer area of Jihana women say that more rain will make their lives better.

Women do not have much time for handicrafts. In Al-Biyadh, next to Jihana, an old pottery centre has been identified. Men bring the basic materials and women manufacture the pottery. All women in this village work in the pottery business. In Mahweet and Tawila this pottery is sold by women. Considering the restraints on time and energy, it is suggested to only introduce light crafts like knitting and embroidery. In Mahweet Governorate 36% of the women over 10 years old are single, widowed or divorced to which the 'migrant' widows can be added. They form a good targetgroup for women's activities. In Tawila and Mahweet women frequent the weekly market, which could be used for education and extension. It should not be assumed that men will pass on knowledge to
women, as levels of communication between them are very low. Also, the fact that 99% of women is illiterate should not mean that they are excluded from development activities.

COE, Elisabeth

Consultancy report on apiculture extension training for men and women in Yemen Arab Republic Rome/FAO/1986 33pp

Locally produced honey is very much appreciated in Yemen, even at a high price of 300 YR ($30) per 1/2 liter. Only 8% of the 2000 tons sold each year is produced in the country. The Yemeni bee (Apis mellifera jemenitica) is smaller than European bees, produces less honey and travels shorter distances. Attempts to introduce foreign bees have shown that the Yemeni bee is best suited to the environment. Apiculture is known throughout the country and is traditionally practiced close to the houses (on rooftops for instance). Beehives are often made from bamboo or reeds. Bees are kept for honey harvesting, whereas polling is not common. Beeswax is usually thrown away at present.

During recent years modern methods have been introduced, of which an adapted version of the Kenya Top Bar Hive is successful. Until the present, beekeeping is seen as men's work. This may be based on the agression of bees to dark colours, such as are usually worn by women. Also, current protective clothing is totally inappropriate for Yemeni women. Only a handful of women have been trained in apiculture, and although some women have expressed a keen interest in learning about beekeeping, extension messages have not been specifically aimed at them. In the transition period from traditional to modern methods of
apiculture, women can be included.

Recommendations include the establishment of apiculture extension training centres in both Ibb and Rada or Amran. Male and female extension agents are to be employed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries at different levels in the governorates. Beekeeping needs to be coordinated on a national level. Importing bees is discouraged, whereas the modified version of the Kenya Top Bar Hive should be continued. Educational videos need to be made available on VHS as well as Betamax. Written extension material should be transferred to audio cassettes. The hornet trap developed by the Southern Uplands Rural Development Project can be supplied to other areas. It is recommended that the draft project document is implemented.

COLEMAN, Susan Long

Women in development projects in the Yemen Arab Republic Sana’a/USAID/1983

74 pp

This report identifies current Women in Development (WID) activities in Yemen and seeks to increase the extent to which women are incorporated into projects funded by USAID. An important point to keep in mind is the diversity in women’s roles and possibilities, which forms a major obstacle to generalizations. Female staff is to take part in all phases of projects. The support of local male authorities and family representatives needs to be enlisted. Women as beneficiaries are to be involved from the start and their active recruitment for further education and employment is recommended.

USAID is involved in agriculture, education and health programmes in Yemen.
Their general WID strategy entails the integration of women in national development by setting up projects in line with women's current and future roles. For Yemen this means an emphasis on training and education, on more women in the formal and informal labour sector, as well as on increasing attention to women's issues within Yemeni institutions.

Current constraints include the scarcity of data on women's needs and activities, the small number of educated women, restricted female mobility, sex-segregated education, conservative forces inside the Government and in villages and difficult working circumstances for foreign women. To obtain insight into the experiences in this area of other donor organisations, a description is given of key projects.

Based on the available data, priorities include an increase in the number of female government employees, an increase in the number of female staff in USAID projects (including acculturation training) and the stimulation of women's participation in general. Detailed suggestions for existing USAID projects are given.

DORSKY, Susan

Women of 'Amran. A Middle Eastern ethnographic study Salt Lake City/1985

212 pp

Both positive and negative sides of women's daily lives, their perceptions and situation in 'Amran, a town in the northern part of the country are discussed. Tribal values and affiliation are still important in the town, although wealth is now also important as designator of status. Recent developments lightened
workloads for both 'Amrani men and women, yet women also remember that in the past they had more prestige.

Two opposing lines of thinking regarding the position of Arab women are identified. On the one hand women living under Islam are seen as very subdued, while on the other hand emphasis is given to the high regard for women. The complexity of the issue is illustrated with reference to contemporary developments in the area of the anthropology of women. After the Yemeni Revolution of 1962 little attention has been given to the position of women so far. The separation of the sexes results in a female domain and social order, but women remain dependent on their male relatives although they do not see themselves as inferior to men in any way.

To increase understanding about the daily lives of 'Amrani women these are described against a wider historical and social background. The fieldwork data on which this book is based were collected during a sixteen-month stay in the town, which resulted in a Ph.D. thesis. A description is given about the progress of the fieldwork, how contact with women was made and maintained.

On an ordinary day the prayer call at dawn, the first of the daily five, marks the beginning of the day. Women prepare a small breakfast consisting of bread, butter, coffee or tea. A more elaborate meal follows later in the morning with more and different kinds of bread. Men do the shopping for the household, enabling women to prepare the main meal of the day, consisting of several courses, at lunchtime. Afterwards the men will go off to chew and smoke the waterpipe. Evening meals, when served at all, tend to be light. Housecleaning is done in the morning. During the afternoon women have time for social visiting.
Sons are preferred over daughters by men, but women have a less marked preference. Male circumcision is common, yet female circumcision is rarely practiced in the town itself although known in the area. Infants are routinely swaddled. In general, attitudes towards children are quite lenient and physical punishment is frowned upon. Children have access to both the male and female world. The knowledge thus obtained may be useful in adulthood.

Women play a large role in the arrangement of marriages, while men take care of the formal arrangements. Prospective marriage partners have the right to refuse. Most problems regarding weddings are caused by financial disagreements. Bride-price increases steadily. Women are very much in favour of the institution of bride-price, because they regard it as a recognition of their chastity and their work. Polygyny is legal in Yemen, but not practiced that often. Divorce is common and easily initiated by men. Main reasons are the inability to conceive, problems between husband and wife or between mother-in-law and wife.

A first pregnancy is therefore very welcome. Fear exists for the 'augari', which may grow in the womb and is made responsible for reproductive problems. Men may contribute to the growth of the 'augari' by making their wives unhappy. During childbirth women are usually assisted by another woman in their close environment. Afterwards, ideally women have forty days' rest but this is hard to adhere to in nuclear households. Most women are mothers by the time they are 20 years old.

Men's social relations center around the marketplace, the mosque and the tea shops. They are therefore less inclined to form close bonds with their neighbours, such as women do. Popular women are those who are very sociable as well as virtuous. Women spend much time socializing with other women and
female friendships are extremely important to them. They are very supportive of each other and their reciprocal relationships cross status differences. Their world is very small however. It is difficult for them to imagine life for women in Sana'a for instance.

_We have seen that 'Amrani women derive psychological strength and emotional well-being both from their competent performance of clearly defined roles and from their extensive and intensive interaction with other women, despite the profound power differential between them and 'Amrani men. They do no see themselves as men's moral or intellectual inferiors, and they are both freely critical of male failings and supportive of female moral deviance when male neglect or abuse necessitates it. Far from conforming to Western notions of the passive, vacuous victim behind the veil, they are, with few exceptions, strong, vital, self-confident women, abundantly capable of pursuing their own ends within the limits set for them and deriving great satisfaction from their lives._

(Dorsky 1986:206)

FRESE-WEGHOEFT, Gisela

_Ein Leben in der Unsichtbarkeit. Frauen im Jemen_ Reinbek/Rowohlt/1986 184 pp

The information on women's lives in a northern town of Yemen is based on an assignment of two and a half years of a German Volunteer, attached to a District Training Center and teaching home economics. It is also a personal account about reactions to the confrontation with a traditional Islamic society, resulting in a deep attachment to the strong Yemeni women.
Traditional town life entails immaculate behaviour on the part of foreign female residents. They have to dress modestly and refrain from contacts with Yemeni and expatriate males outside work. There is very little space for a private life. Teaching entails finding a room which is socially acceptable to women and gaining the confidence of the local population, while struggling with difficult dialects. It is important to be extrovert and to trust in order to start to understand Yemeni society.

In the afternoon, after the morning's teaching sessions, the women's meetings take place. Several women and their lives are portrayed: developments in marriage, pregnancy and childbirth, education etc. Information is given about their dress, decoration, dances, mutual support and friendship. But the names and the circumstances of the women have been changed to avoid recognition. In Yemen women are not discussed publicly.

GASCOIGNE, Elizabeth

*Working with Yemeni women* Oxford/Oxfam 1986 47pp

This contribution to Oxfam's body of knowledge regarding women and development in general, and its activities in Yemen in particular, has been written by a former Country Representative. Yemeni women are confined to the private sphere (including place of work for rural women) with little influence in the public sphere, which is essential for women's active participation. Two strategies are identified. The first one is traditional and avoids change in women's reproductive role. At present this approach, also described as 'male perspective' is predominant. The second perspective is the progressive one, entailing a female perspective and fostering 'real change'.
It is the policy of the Yemeni government to coordinate development cooperation activities on a central level, which in practice makes it more difficult to reach Oxfam's target groups, including rural women. At this level women are (still) mostly absent, although at governorate level chances are greater that women may be involved in different project cycles. Personal connections are of utmost importance in this process. Women working in high positions tend to come from elite families and to agree with the male perspective. They may have little insight in the reality of current rural women's lives. Moreover, they are constantly sought out by donor organizations for advice and seminars.

The main obstacles for women to participate in the development process are entering the so-called 'public sphere' and keeping up an impeccable reputation. Rural women living away from recently constructed feeder roads, along which signs of modern times like schools, health centers and shops etc. may be found, are seen as priority for Oxfam's input. Activities might be organized around functional literacy, health (including water and sanitation), agriculture and women's role in the formal labour market. Oxfam needs to work from the second perspective and therefore a female Yemeni assistant should be appointed.

HAMADA, Dorothy

Integration of women in agriculture extension programmes: a proposal for improving rural women's contribution to agriculture in the Tihama Region of the Yemen Arab Republic Hodeidah/Tihama Development Authority/1981 8pp.

Men have increasingly left the area to work in cities or abroad. Combined with the introduction of new crops, techniques and higher school attendance, this
has resulted in the shifting of tasks and responsibilities to women on top of their existing domestic chores, including caring for sick household members. They also build walls of houses and compounds. Hauling water is women's most important task, followed by cutting fodder for their livestock. They handharvest grains like sorghum and millet, which comprise the produce planted on 90% of the agricultural land. Female agricultural labourers are paid lower wages than men.

Since women are less likely than men to move out of their area, it is very important that extension activities are aimed at them as well as the men. It is repeatedly stressed that home economics extension should be directed at men, just as agricultural extension needs to aim at women too. Home economics extension should center around improving the efficiency of household tasks, in order to save time and energy. Malnutrition constitutes a major problem. Ideally, extensionists will work in their own area.

HAWKINS, Stephen A.

Women in Yemen: increasing the labour potential Sana'a/USAID/1985 28pp

In recent years the Yemeni economy has experienced a shortage of foreign exchange. To remedy this situation the productivity and effectiveness of women in the areas of agriculture, education and health care needs to be increased.

Between 1972 and 1982 imports rose from 2 billion to 7 billion YR (with a top of 8 billion in 1980). Exports amount to 113 million YR in 1982 only. Remittances from migrant workers make up for this foreign exchange deficit, although after 1979 the deficit could not be covered completely any longer. A
large proportion of imports (approximately 30%) consist of foods. With a steadily increasing output of agricultural produce (2 to 3% per year) and a rising value of food imports, it can be argued that a shortage of agricultural labour limits the potential output.

Future projections into the year 2000 show that the value of food imports will continue to rise sharply. Food self-sufficiency is expected to drop from more than 70% in 1975 to less than 50% in the year 2000. Therefore the time spent by rural women on fetching water and fuel wood needs to be decreased to enable them to work in productive agriculture instead. Output could be increased even more by appropriate education and extension.

Further reductions in the foreign exchange deficit may be obtained by increasing the number of female teachers (which will not have a significant impact on the female agricultural labour force), thus replacing expatriates paid in foreign currencies. The same holds true for the health care sector, where an increase of female doctors and nurses will save valuta paid to foreign health workers.

ILACO

Women's participation in development. A discussion note submitted by Ilaco.
Rada'/Ilaco/1979 13pp

In a joint agreement between the Dutch and the Yemeni government it was decided to collect basic information on women in the area and to stimulate women's participation in project activities, including the MCH-clinic. This pioneering work led to the establishment of a women's section within the Rada'
Integrated Rural Development Project (RIRDP), which has become a national and international example of women's involvement. The section decided to concentrate on the position of rural women in water management, animal husbandry and agriculture as they fitted the scope of the project. The findings of the study were applied through experiments in the area of poultry (women are left out in the large scale enterprises), introduction of dairy goats and of laboursaving spinning wheels.

Priorities include: a reduction in women's workloads, an increase in money under control of women, stimulation of literacy and an improvement of health and of nutrition. The authors are rather pessimistic as to the speed of involving women in the development process due to their restricted mobility and their 'subordinated' position, the tendency of development activities to concentrate on men and stimulate feminine activities and the little attention given to women on a national level.

MACLAGAN, Iolanthe M.

Women's understanding and use of water in Es Safaqayn, Hufash Nahia Sana'a/Al Mahweit Regional Planning Project/1982 26pp

About 1000 people live in this particular area, which is relatively prosperous due to government jobs, migrant remittances and the growing of qat. Fetching domestic water is the responsibility of women as far as it can be done on foot. Men may transport water to the villages in trucks or on motorbikes. Women carry water on their heads in 20 liter jerrycans (dubba) or 15 liter metal buckets (barmil). Women see collecting water is seen as their most strenuous job.
The potential use for water is determined by their quality. Water is described as \textit{khafif} (light) versus \textit{thagil} (heavy), which seems to be related to the amount of mineral salts present in the water. Other categories used are \textit{safiyy} (clear) versus \textit{ghabre} (muddy). Preferred water is both light as well as clear. The notion that fresh water should not be more than a day old does not exist in this area.

Different watersources are available, and

\begin{quote}
Each woman's collection of water can be seen as the outcome of a balancing of priorities, resulting in behaviour varying with the time of year, quantity of rainfall, her proximity to various sources, and the relative importance of saving money and effort.
\end{quote}

(MacLagan 1982:4)

Nine different water sources that are identified, including bottled water, rainwater, ponds, cisterns, wadi stream etc. For each source a short overview is given of its position, the quantity, availability and local evaluation of the water, who uses it and how the water is collected, distributed and stored. Although there are slight differences of opinion, it is generally felt that Hasib water (from a spring) is the best, followed by seil water and lastly cistern water. Water use is divided into three main groups: drinking, washing and water given to plants and animals.

After fetching water, it may be stored in tanks (\textit{khazzan}), \textit{baramil}, clay jars (\textit{gu'h}), ghee and milkpowder tins and buckets (\textit{bardī}). Cistern water is not commonly seen as drinking water. Some women claim that it contains \textit{dud} (worms) and \textit{jerathim} (germs), which even extensive boiling will not eliminate. Different uses of water are related to the possible sources. Re-use of water
is uncommon.

The responsibility for the domestic water supply requires much time, energy, effort and planning from women. Water projects should take these existing practices into account. It is not absolutely necessary to supply the same quality of water for each of the uses to which it will be put. A common feature in Mahweit province is the difference made between a stagnant versus a flowing water source. The former is generally used for washing and the latter for drinking. The existing knowledge could serve as the basis for an educational programme.

MAKHLOUF, Carla
Changing veils: women and modernisation in North Yemen London/1979 103 pp

The rapid change Yemeni society is undergoing is documented through the eyes of middle and upper class Sana'ni women, who are confronted most with the tensions between tradition and modernity. Attention is given to how they experience and see the nature of these changes.

In describing the traditional setting the focus is formed by the dialectic between the 'male' and 'female' sides of the culture. An essential characteristic is the sex-segregated afternoon visiting (tafrīta for women).

The veil forms an important symbol of traditional Yemeni culture. In the female world the veil is removed, signifying women's relative autonomy. Using the veil, a woman can be present at men's gatherings without being acknowledged. To outsiders the veil may make the woman a non-person. However
... seclusion and veiling function as much to exclude men as to seclude women. (Makhlouf 1979:34)

Social pressures make it very difficult for women to oppose the veil. Attitudes are ambivalent, due to the equally ambivalent role veiling plays in Yemeni society: on the one hand women are perceived as weak and in need of protection while on the other hand her strong sexuality is feared. Yet women certainly do not see themselves as weak and passive. In societies based on kinship the private domain is essential for the insight into power structures. Women play important roles in the so-called private sphere.

Recent changes have had an immense impact on the household through the availability of gas stoves, radio-cassette players, electricity, television, aluminium cooking pots, different foods and textiles etc. Outside the home major change has occurred in the areas of health, education and the mass media. The Yemeni Women's Association wanted to combat high illiteracy, spread information about home economics and the problems of early marriage. But since Yemeni women already meet each other all the time, the Women's Association could not attract them through offering the opportunity of a meeting place. The existing radio programme contributed more to change by making women aware that their conflicts are experienced by a wider group.

Change also occurs through the introduction of medical facilities, which enable women to meet a wider range of people. Schools for girls stimulate friendship outside their kin-group. Next to relations based on traditional ties, new ones are forming based on clear roles. Women also meet more men through education and work. Thus, the veiling norms are slowly changing and the previous tension between men and women is slightly diminished. In the past girls were socialized in a female group of different ages but with similar
life patterns. Education changes this and introduces the generation gap.

Traditionally, the Yemeni woman has a central role as mother. But television is presenting different alternatives which undermine the traditional role. As expressed vividly in contemporary poetry, the values based on social constraints are slowly being replaced by values inspired by more individualistic notions.

MARUNI, Kuduse Ab

A study in the participation of the Yemeni women in the economic activities

Sana'a/CPO/1984 9pp

A study has been executed in Sana'a, Taiz, Ibb and Hodeidah Governorates, together comprising 70% of the Yemeni population to look into women's economic roles.

It is found that 68% of all females over 10 years old can be included in the potential workforce. Of these 92% are economically active. Average monthly income, for those who earn a wage, has been estimated at 1170 YR and average yearly income at YR 5335 as the average duration of employment has been estimated at 5 months per year.

According to this report 1,186,000 women are working in the Yemen Arab Republic. Most work women do falls within the category of agriculture and livestock. 86.3% of the working women receive no wage.

- 44 -
MYNTTI, Cynthia

Report on female participation in formal education, training programs, and the modern economy in the Yemen Arab Republic Sana'a/USAID/1978 19pp

The first vocational training for women, a WHO nursing education, took place in 1957. NIPA (National Institute of Public Administration) opens its doors to female secretarial trainees in 1971. They are followed in 1972 by the first 4 female students at Sana'a University. As far as primary schools are concerned, it may be noted that 30,224 girls are enrolled during the 1976-1977 academic year, constituting 13.6% of total enrollment. Women constitute 4.4% of the formal labourforce in Taiz, Hodeidah and Sana'a. The Ministry of Education is the biggest employer, followed by the Chinese Textile Factory.

Two theories are presented to explain the low rate of education (74.4% of males and 97.6% of females over 10 years are illiterate in 1978) and low rate of participation in the labour force in the modern sector. Firstly, the 'industrial complexity' theory holds that the level of education and of work within the modern sector for women increases along with the removal of production from the household unit. Secondly, in sociological terms, Yemenis (women more than men) suffer from the historical past with its very high percentage of illiteracy. Early marriage and childbearing are obstacles to education for women. Educated women are found in the elite and in line with developments elsewhere in the Middle East act as change agents.

Bottlenecks identified for vocational training include the low level of primary education, the importance of modesty for women, shortage of teachers, poor pay and lack of incentives. The stimulation of primary education through the Ministry of Education and the Teacher Training Institutes is of utmost importance.
MYNTTI, Cynthia

*Women in rural Yemen* Sana'a/USAID/1978 56pp

In 1978, 9 years after the end of the Civil War, Yemen is subject to fast change due to high remittances from an estimated number of 500,000 male migrants ($1,34 billion recorded in the fiscal year 1978) and increased cultivation and consumption of qat.

Underdevelopment is evident from estimated statistics such as: crude birth rate 47/1000, crude death rate 20/1000, rate of natural increase 2.7%, infant mortality rate 176 per 1000, life expectancy at birth 45 years and 15% of population being under 15 years old. Literacy rates are low with 25% for men and a mere 2% for females. Only 8% of the population have good access to drinking water. The position of rural women is outlined by their status in law and custom and by the rural economy.

The state religion is Islam. It contains two major sects, the Zaydi in the centre and the north and Shafa'i along the coast and in the south. The legal system is based on the Islamic law, Shari'a. Next to Shari'a 'Urf (customary law) can be recognized. Marriages are arranged by the groom and a male wakil (representative) of the bride and by law cannot occur by force. A girl's silence is taken as agreement. In one survey 65% of ever married women were first married before the onset of puberty.

Marriage gives the man right to sexual relations with his wife, cohabitation and obedience and fidelity from his wife. Women can claim support, a house, bridewealth and control over their own money. Men can marry up to four wives, on the condition that he treats them equally. 4.3% of males have more than one wife. Preferred marriage partners are patrilateral parallel cousins (ibn 'amm
Men divorce women by asking a judge in the company of two witnesses, after which they have to pay alimony for three months to await a possible pregnancy. Any children have to be supported by the father. On remarriage a woman often loses the children from her previous relationship. Women can also start divorce proceedings, but this is rather complicated. Divorce as such does not carry a stigma. Enforced early marriage and very complicated divorce procedures for women are seen as 'most harmful practices.'

Women inherit according to Islam. A daughter receives half of her brother's share (as an only child: half the total inheritance), a mother gets 1/6 of the total sum and a wife 1/8. In case of injury or death of a person, blood money is paid. The going rates for women amount to half of those for men. Yemeni law specifies the amounts for particular cases.

Customs serve to maintain the honour of the family. They require women to be modest in dress, speech, behaviour and to maintain an impeccable reputation. Women should not be kept waiting in a public place for instance. The outward sign of this modesty is the prevailing dress code. Veiling can be seen as a sign of class and expresses a feeling of moral superiority.

Socializing, usually during the afternoons starting at about 3.30 p.m., is a very important aspect of women's lives. They like to appear in very colourful dresses wearing their jewellery and to exchange the news. Dancing is done in two's for the enjoyment of those present. Religious duties for women include praying five times a day, done at home. They fast during the Holy Month of Ramadan and try to make the Haj to Mecca at least once during their lifetime. Women participate in decision-making, but the final say is not theirs. This is
taken for granted.

Children are regarded as an asset in Yemeni society. They have to contribute to household tasks, with young girls (6 years and up) involved in fetching water, a sometimes remunerative task for them. At age 10 this has become their main responsibility within the household. They also start to learn to cook at this age. Boys participate in watercarrying by guiding donkeys. Both sexes work in the field and herd sheep and goats.

Rural women divide their time between household and agricultural activities. They both envy urban women their greater leisure time as well as pity them for their restricted mobility. Opinions vary between rural women about their most tiring job. They have always played a very important part in agricultural production. It is necessary to obtain more insight in the consequences for women of losing their 'productive roles in agriculture' and of the influence of male migration on their activities.

The health of rural women may suffer from carrying heavy loads of water and/or fuel from a young age and from spending several hours a day cooking in a smoky, badly-lighted and -ventilated kitchen. In case they wish to consult a doctor, they need permission from their husband or a male relative, who also needs to accompany them. Women know quite a bit about herbal healing.

The objectives for women in development in Yemen center around meeting the basic needs of both men and women. Priority rests with the provision of safe drinking water. Also, attention should be given to women's traditional money-making skills. On asking women their opinion on possible improvements in their lives, it is likely to hear about solutions to community problems. These include water, nutrition, hygiene and sanitation education, formal and
informal education and improvements to women's tools.

*Women in the countryside are best understood by appreciating the limited level of national development, and by looking at how their productive roles are changing and the extent to which they are limited and protected by law and custom. Projects designed to help women should be aimed at improving basic community welfare, and not more, at this time.*

MYNTTI, Cynthia

Women and development in the Yemen Arab Republic Eschborn/GTZ/1979 167pp

Women's position can only be understood in their social, economical and historical context. The main social forces of change include the great number of male migrants, with their remittances and the resulting shortage of manpower, together with the change from a subsistence-based to a cash economy and the inflow of large amounts of development funds.

People reside with patrilineal kin in an extended household, although a trend towards nuclear families is present. Men generally take the decisions. Even when they migrate, a male relative will have been appointed to take their place. Women attain more influence with age. Women's legal position is governed by laws based on the Koran and Shari'a law.

Women's workload is related to urban or rural residence, age and social standing. Housecleaning takes minimal time. Cooking (lunch constitutes the main meal) takes about 3 hours a day, including baking bread. Washing clothes is done more frequently than in the past and when no piped water is available
very little water is used. Women are responsible for domestic water supply, men for irrigation. At the time only 8% of the Yemeni population had water within close reach. Many women spent up to 8 hours fetching water every day. This task is mostly done by younger women, helped by children and donkeys.

Livestock is often kept in the house and is usually cared for by women. They may have some goats, chickens, donkeys and one cow. In the Highlands women tend to handfeed their cows, which is very timeconsuming. They are also involved in dairy production.

Fuel used comprises butagaz, wood, dung, sorghum stalks and roots, charcoal, kerosene and butagaz. People prefer bread from ovens heated by wood. The decreasing supply and rising price of fuel wood are turning this into an expensive or increasingly timeconsuming preference. In agriculture women's work is very important. They are planting, thinning, weeding, harvesting, winnowing, pulling out roots and applying manure, whereas men tend to be responsible for ploughing, threshing and applying insecticides and fertilizers. Agricultural extension should specifically include women.

Rural women who need money because they are widowed, divorced or poor, work as seamstresses, water carriers, clothes washers, bread makers, basket makers, traditional health workers, construction workers, servants, traders, animal tenders, potters, weavers and agricultural labourers. In towns they work as cleaners, teachers, bank employees. They are also working in teashops or preparing brides. Whereas men routinely meet in the mosque, the marketplace and the mafraj, women's social life is structured through formal and informal meetings with friends, relatives and neighbours, usually in the afternoon. Rural women are more mobile than urban women, and are more informed about and involved in the public sphere.
The participation of women in formal education is still very limited. The Ministry of Education states that families like to keep their girls at home as they do not realize the importance of education for their daughters and that society at large has not accepted the idea of female education. Nonformal educational activities are just starting.

Women's health problems are similar to those of the rest of the population and caused by poor sanitation and hygiene. Additional health problems are caused by a heavy workload, including the routine carrying of 20 liters of water on the head for up to eight hours a day. Repeated pregnancies and deliveries also take their toll.

Yemeni couples desire many children. People love children and see them as a security for their old age. Infant mortality rates remain high. Female circumcision is reported for the Tihama only. Before seeking medical advice, women need permission from a male relative. Traditional birth attendants and female healers provide health care facilities.

The integration of women in development usually means that more women should participate in the "modern sector" through education, training and employment. Since 90% of the population lives in the rural areas, rural women's needs should not be overlooked. At the first International Women's Conference in Mexico City a strategy was accepted that deals with basic human needs. Yemen's First Five Year Plan is in accordance with this approach. There may be discrepancies between what women want and what are perceived to be their objective needs.

More women should be included among expatriate project staff. The western belief that female experts can not work effectively in an Arab country is not
substantiated. Further, is needed to be given for the kind of data collected. Have local priorities and needs been taken into account? Is attention given to an analysis in social terms in project evaluations? An overview is presented of contemporary projects. So far, projects have not collected relevant data in the preparation phase. The inclusion of women's needs and activities in project planning is new. Some excellent information is never written down.

Priorities for increasing women's participation in development activities are found in agriculture, livestock, domestic fuel supply, better housing, domestic water supply and sanitation, health, education and the mass media.

MYNTTI, Cynthia


Most data on which this article is based are from the second part of the 1970s. Yemen has been included among the least developed countries of the world because of demographic, educational and health indicators, but economic figures present a different picture. Male migration resulting in a shortage of male labour, as well as substantial remittances combined with large-scale aid programmes influence women's position. In 1975 3,703 women form 4% of the formal labour force in cities. They tend to work either in top or in low status jobs. Health and education are areas in which it is more respectable for women to work. Cultural notions regarding women's role which include early marriage and motherhood as well as the impropriety of being together with unrelated males are barriers to women's participation in the formal labour
sector. No legal obstructions exist, but there is a serious shortage of childcare facilities.

It is recommended that women's important role within the household and their contribution to agriculture is recognized. Educational opportunities need to be advocated. Rural women spend much time and energy fetching water and fuel. Household and agricultural work tends are divided along age-lines, with younger women being responsible for the more strenuous tasks. Women's current income-generating activities should be safe-guarded. Yemen's population is predominantly rural, which should be kept in mind when projects are designed. Women will perceive personal gains and setbacks before they can envisage a national process. They look forward to and appreciate an enlightened workload and more money at their disposal.

NIJLAND, Heleen
Landenstudie Noord-Jemen. SNV en de positieverbetering van vrouwen Dhamar/SNV/1987 73pp

As a contribution to their policy plan on women and development, SNV (Netherlands Development Organization) has requested their field offices to supply them with country studies on women. This report is based on a literature study about Yemeni women, a study of SNV's policy regarding Yemen, discussions with SNV staff and development workers and interviews with female development workers and their Yemeni counterparts.

Marriage is an important institution in Yemeni society and boys and girls often marry for the first time during their teens. Women have no decisionma-
king power. Their status rises with the birth of sons and with old age. Rural women are more mobile than urban women. 70 - 75% of agricultural activities are performed by women.

The integrated rural development projects in Taiz, Rada', and the Tihama have incorporated women's activities in recent years. Initially these include home economics and sewing, but at present women are receiving training regarding vegetable gardens, livestock etc. on a small-scale. Many households own livestock like donkeys, camels, cows, chicken, goats, rabbits (around Taiz) and sheep. In general a family tends to have 1 or 2 cows, 4 to 5 sheep/goats, 5 to 10 chickens and sometimes a donkey or ox. Livestock is mainly cared for by women, with the exception of camels and oxen. There is no consensus in the literature and among the informants about who decides on issues pertaining to regarding livestock. Noteworthy is the habit of women in the Highlands to handfeed their cows, which occupies them for 6 - 7 hours daily. Although women are responsible for livestock, extension is usually not aimed at them.

According to CPO data from 1984 29% of the population has access to drinking water. This means that for 71% of the population mainly women collect water on foot or with a donkey. Some villages have their drinking water driven in by watertruck. Waterprojects are usually technical operations designed in consultation with the male population. Women's needs and wishes are not taken into account.

In the countryside fuel supply is problematic. Women have to either walk greater distances to collect firewood or households have to spend higher sums for their firewood. Alternative sources are used, yet bread baked in a traditional oven using wood is favoured. Electricity has spread very quickly in the countryside through the use of generators.
Lack of elementary knowledge regarding (environmental) health and sanitation is problematic. Pregnancy and childbirth are hazardous events in a woman's life. Hard physical labour combined with many (and early) pregnancies cause complications. In a society which emphasizes having children, infertility can be quite traumatic. Women seeking medical advice, including on family planning, need male permission.

Education, both formal and informal, is essential. The Yemeni Women's Associations offer literacy courses. Interest is high, but lack of space and of teachers affect both the quantity and the quality of training provided. Education for boys is given priority over the one for girls. Fifteen women are employed in policy-making positions in Yemeni ministries. The Second Five-Year Plan encourages the participation of (educated) women in the workforce, wants to create training possibilities for female teachers and stimulate women to be educated for positions within the health sector. The continuous lack of finances creates problems in realizing plans.

In their policy plan of 1984 SNV has given priority to rural areas which are behind in the provision of safe drinking water, the maintenance of adequate nutritional levels and the provision of primary health care with special emphasis on the consequences for women. Secondly, attention is given to vocational training and indirect stimulation of rural health care by training, supervision and support of health care workers. In 1986 emphasis is given to the support of primary health care, the provision of drinking water schemes and the participation of women.

Constraints entail women's subordinate social position, women's restricted mobility in public life and their limited level of education. Women's needs are identified in agriculture, livestock, water/energy, household, health,
education, trade/industry/credit. Improvement of women's position is defined in terms of improvements in basic living conditions, more confidence to defend one's interests and greater economic independency.

PAYNE, Loretta

Partial evaluation of the poultry extension and training subprojects (PETS) based on impact at household level Sana'a/CID/1987 28pp

The PETS project has started in August 1982 and intends to stimulate egg production, higher income and improved nutrition for small and medium scale farmers. The project finished during November 1986. The project is evaluated in a qualitative rather than a quantitative manner by interviewing women from four villages. The question is whether the project has reached the target group. Secondly, the nature of the impact is described. In general, the poultry sector has been more successful than any other sector.

As part of the project the Golden Comet pullet has been introduced. This hen is quite resistant to disease and is capable of laying (brown) eggs daily, without hatching them. The Golden Comets and their feed have been imported from Holland and were in principle intended for distribution among villagers with proper training and advice. Some Yemenis have therefore been sent abroad to study.

A comparison had been planned between two villages with and two without distribution of Golden Comet pullets (who were sold for 25 YR a piece when young). However, no distribution lists are available and a large number of these pullets have been sold by individuals. Mornings are a good time for
interviewing women, who in some cases complain about poultry diseases which are a result of calcium deficiency. By feeding crushed dried gus this deficiency can be countered. Baladi chickens are preferred to the Golden Comet because their eggs are said to taste better and they lay more of them. Women are not particularly interested in selling either eggs or chickens, although they may buy them when necessary. Chickens are fed scraps and leftovers. Women only rarely buy chickenfeed. During the night they are kept inside. No woman received advice on the care of her Golden Comet pullets.

A major obstacle in increasing pullet production is the monopoly exercised by Marib Poultry on chickenlayers and feed. Increased involvement of a more competitive private sector and clear descriptions of how to use trained students might yield better results.

PYBURN, K. Ann
A study of women in agricultural extension in the Yemen Arab Republic Sana'a/USAID 1987 64pp

An answer is sought to the question which factors contribute to the successful output of female agricultural extension workers. During a five week consultancy a study of the relevant literature and visits to the Southern Uplands Rural Development Project, Rada' Integrated Rural Development Project, Central Highlands Rural Development Project in Sana'a, Tihama Development Authority in Hodeidah and Zabid, Khowlan and Sa'ada were made.

Agricultural and home economics extension are much needed in Yemen. Village women are very receptive to new ideas and agricultural extension aimed at
women exists but on a very limited scale. The Ibb Secondary Agricultural Institute (ISAI) could organize short-term specialist training courses for women. Up to five university scholarships for women should be offered. It is suggested that men are trained in home economics, family healthcare and women's agricultural tasks at the ISAI and that a study is conducted into the influence of returning male migrants on women’s roles in agriculture.

A model is presented for extension activities in Yemen based on the experiences gained in Taiz and Rada'. It calls for more and better educated women in all of the identified four levels of project hierarchy (director, extension specialists, village counterparts and trainees). Problems facing female extension agents include the low status accorded to agricultural work. It creates tensions for agricultural students, who experience a conflict between the high status associated with education, and the low status of practical work. Rural women’s restricted mobility serves as an obstacle to their training.

Aiming programmes at women excludes men, which may hamper the success of an undertaking. Male students should therefore also receive training in the subjects taught to women. Regional differences need to be taken into account when designing projects, by adjusting curriculae and methods to local circumstances (e.g. by using locally produced videos). Training for male extension agents differs from the one for women insofar that men concentrate on a few topics, where women's training programmes tend to be broad and perhaps superficial. Lastly, in order to stimulate women’s interest it is recommended to create opportunities for a training package (e.g. the more desired knitting lessons together with the less popular literacy classes).
SEGER, Karen Elizabeth

*Women and change in the Yemen Arab Republic: a view from the literature* (MA thesis) Tuscon/University of Arizona/1986 116pp

In 1970 Ester Boserup called attention to the fact that women are increasingly marginalized despite the number of development programmes, because the sexual division of labour and gender relations are overlooked. This thesis aims to investigate how women's position has changed in the light of recent developments in Yemen, while keeping in mind that the particular nature of Yemeni history and geography makes generalizations very difficult.

The major contributing factor is extensive male migration to Saudi Arabia (97%) and other Middle Eastern oil producing countries during the period 1975-1985. It results in a domestic labour shortage and consequent recruitment of foreign employees. Huge remittances are used for consumption and investment on a personal level. During the same period foreign-funded development projects increase considerably. Yemeni urbanization rates are relatively low. Despite increased industrialization, agriculture forms the backbone of society. Development plans have focussed on the agricultural sector, in order to increase production. The greater availability of cash has led to a substantial expansion in the growing of qat, at the expense of other, less profitable crops.

The impact of these changes on rural women's roles is usually assessed by looking at women's workloads. Rural and urban women of the elite will carry out their own domestic activities, but may hire servants. Rural women participate in agriculture and livestock activities depending on their age, the type of agriculture practiced and the household size and composition.
Women's workload may also be influenced by the absence of males. Yemeni women have very limited decision-making powers and are restricted in their mobility.

The introduction of technology to men in agriculture combined with the change from subsistence to cashcrop farming has put women at a disadvantage. Cashcrop farming may have negative effects on the nutritional status of rural Yemenis. Malnutrition is rampant. General living standards have increased, but so have women's workloads in the fields as well as in the homes. Boserup's theory is supported in the case of Yemen. Education for rural women is very important, esp. in health, nutrition, agriculture and livestock. It is essential that rural women's needs are incorporated into planning phases of development projects.

STEENAN, Anne-Marieke

Women's involvement in the Yemen Arab Republic through non-governmental, multilateral, bilateral and volunteer organisations Sana'a/SNV/1987 18 pp

From October 28 until November 14, 1986 an identification mission visited the Yemen Arab Republic to look into the possibilities to increase the participation of Yemeni women in the development process. As a preparation for their visit different donor organisations have been contacted in order to be able to brief the mission on ongoing and planned activities involving women.

Two NGO's are active in Yemen, Oxfam and Rädda Barnen. Oxfam supports the recently established Yemen Women's Association in Bajil. Health activities including women are funded through BOCD in two areas. A clinic for employees of the Ministry of Municipalities & Housing is sponsored in the old city of
Sana'a and support is given to the Technical Unit for Nutrition. Oxfam plans to hire a female deputy director in order to stimulate projects aimed at women. Rädda Barnen is mainly involved in health activities and health-related training, but pays no specific attention to WAD.

Multilateral assistance is provided by UNDP, UNFPA, Unicef and FAO. UNDP sponsors a rural development project in Khowlan, with special attention to women. In the fall of 1987 a workshop will be held in Taiz to upgrade management abilities for members of the Yemen Women’s Association. Another recent UNDP activity concerns non-formal education teacher training for women, in which Yemeni women are trained to teach home economics, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Education.

UNFPA is mainly involved in health projects. A project is planned to upgrade the institutional capacity in the area of women, population and development. Unicef is mainly involved in female education and MCH programmes. A Yemeni woman is responsible for women's issues. FAO is participating with UNDP in the Khowlan project, where women receive training in nutrition, health, and childcare. Extension activities are planned. UNV (part of UNDP) has supplied three volunteers for the UNDP/Unifem/FAO supported project in Khowlan.

USAID, GTZ, ODA and DGIS are bilateral donors. GTZ sponsors the Amran Basic Health Services and the Al Mahweit Regional Planning Project, both without specific attention to WAD. ODA has been sponsoring one female veterinarian in Hodeidah until recently, who has not specifically been appointed to attend to women's needs in caring for livestock. A female women's agricultural extension adviser has been attached to the Central Highlands Project in Dhamar. USAID includes activities aimed at women in their Tihama Primary Health Care Project.
The Women's Section of the Rada' Integrated Rural Development Project has been supported by the Dutch government for almost 10 years. In the Tihama women's extension activities take place through TDA. In the area of health, projects are sponsored in Dhamar, Rada' and Hodeidah. For several years the Women Training Center and the Yemen Women's Associations in Taiz and Hodeidah have been receiving assistance. Volunteer organisations include BOCD, DED, Peace Corps and SNV. BOCD has been training health workers and providing health education in Abs (Tihama), Al Jabin and Ja'afariah. Research into women's attitudes towards literacy has been done. DED is involved in women's activities through health care projects and District Training Centers. Peace Corps has not paid special attention to WAD in their activities. SNV has supplied a home economist to the project in Rada' and is active in several MCH-projects. A female veterinarian is stationed in Rada'.

SWANSON, Rebecca

*The role of women in the Yemen Arab Republic* Sana'a/USAID/1975 27pp

The tasks of rural women are divided according to age and physical well-being. The women along the Sana'a-Hodeidah road have the heaviest workload of all places in Yemen. Livestock is looked after by older women. Only camels are milked by men. The youngest women fetch water, which may take from four to eight hours a day. People tend to live on top of the mountains, and water is to be found below in/near the wadi. The younger women also have the arduous task of firewood collection. Women cannot travel without a man's permission and their source of information is therefore limited to female gatherings, radio and television. Urban women have an easier life, although they too
suffer from spending several hours a day in smoke-filled kitchens. House-
cleaning does not take very much time and afternoons are spent socializing
with other women.

At the onset of puberty, boys and girls are separated and girls start to veil.
First marriages occur at an early age by contract between families. The
average brideprice in Sana'a is YR 5000 to 6000. Divorce is quite common and
remarriage occurs soon. Men and women do not socialize, unless related.
Decision-making power in the household lies with the men, but in reality women
can have varying degrees of influence.

Women spend much time in childrearing and -bearing. Workloads remain unchanged
during pregnancy. Men do not attend delivery. Wet nurses for children are a
very common occurrence. Thus a legal relationship is established between child
and the wet nurse. Artificial feeding has been recently introduced by
'organizations such as the UN'. Rural women take their wares to nearby roads,
after which men transport it further and do the selling. In towns women may
buy, but will not sell, although in the Tihama and around Taiz women can be
readily observed selling handicrafts, breads etc.

In 1965 2,864 girls in the country attended primary school, in 1970 8,263 and
in 1974 20,770 girls. The very Further training options are very limited. Many
things are changing. In the past the only female activity in agriculture
consisted of sowing seeds, now - due to large-scale male migration - women are
doing many more tasks. They also start to grow vegetables, which incidentally
enables them to satisfy changed food preferences of their returning husbands.

It is recommended that AID be active in poultry projects and in health care
training. Attention is needed for women's role in water and sanitation.
UNFPA


The Yemeni government does not have a strategy for increasing the participation of women in its development process, although it subscribes to the outcome of the Nairobi Conference of 1985 and mentions it as a priority in the Third Five-Year Plan (1987-1991). There is also no institutional support for Women and Development issues, though the Women's Bureau of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs has been appointed to coordinate such activities.

This project aims at building up expertise regarding women and population issues at institutional levels, including the establishment of and assistance from a technical advisory group of 8 women in high positions from different ministries. Moreover, by working through women's associations and schools during 30 months community-based networks will be established. Awareness will be increased about population issues among Yemeni citizens (including children) and among Yemeni women regarding their legal rights and responsibilities through training and educational materials.

YAR/MAF/RIRDP

The position of rural women in water management, animal husbandry, agriculture, mother and child care Arnhem/Ilaco/1978 39pp

Three villages, in which eight households are selected at random, giving a total number of 57 women, are visited every other week. The study looks at the
actual contribution women make, the extent of their decision-making power, women's networks and the legal position of women put in a historical context.

Women's activities are laborious. They prepare several meals a day, process agricultural and dairy produce for domestic supply, they are responsible for livestock care (including the feeding). They fetch water more than once a day, they wash and clean, raise children and also participate in field labour. Work is not only divided between men and women, but also among the women in a household, depending on age and status. Moreover, 15% of the women work (parttime) for cash. They do not organize themselves formally, and have considerable decision-making power in routine affairs.

Male migration with its subsequent increase in cash within the household and the opening up of the country through roads and cars, have a profound effect on women's lives. Women generally marry for the first time between 13 and 15 years of age and most women will be married twice. This may also influence women's life deeply, considering that women move into the husband's family.

Men are responsible for the supply of water for domestic use and women for its management. Watersources are diverse, but rainharvesting is not practised in the area. Water is carried in buckets on young women's heads or transported on a donkey. On average 125-150 liters of water are needed for a family of 6,7 people, including livestock. Very efficient use is made of water and it is carefully re-used as well.

Women are totally responsibly for the care of poultry and cows and also play a large role in the caring for sheep. They feed them, process dairy products and make dungcakes. It is unusual for a household to have more than one cow. Cows are handfed, which may take 1 to 1.5 hrs per feeding, twice a day. Milking is
done twice a day, producing on average 2 liters per day. There is no veterinarian in the area.

Men take decisions related to agriculture and women do much of the actual work. Their involvement in livestock care seems to be greater than the participation in agricultural tasks. They do the more laborious tasks like harvesting, winnowing and threshing by hand. Men control the households supply of grains. Women can take all routine decisions and be held responsible for them.

Pregnant women do not normally decrease their workload or change their diet until the final month. Women deliver in the presence of their mother-in-law and a traditional birth attendant only. The lying-in period lasts 30 days. Breastfeeding is preferred to bottlefeeding in these villages, contrary to the experience in Rada' town. Yet, the increasing instance of bottlefeeding is problematic. Weaning foods, biscuits and pieces of bread, are introduced at about 6 months. The initial decision to consult a modern health facility is taken by men. Subsequent visits can be made by the women themselves.

Recommendations in the area of mother-and-child health care include the promotion of knowledge on contraceptives, education on bodily processes during pregnancy and childbirth. Furthermore, information is needed regarding hygiene in the area of environmental health and water. The level of children's nutrition can be related to the general level of nutrition. Attention should be paid to women's heavy workloads and to the role men play in decision-making processes and the stimulating and passing on of new concepts.
A comparison is made between Rada' town and three selected villages of the Rada' district on socio-economic and demographic variables of women above 11 years old, ante-natal care, delivery and post-natal care, infant and child care, family planning and women's use of modern medical provisions. 80 women from 40 households are questioned from Rada' town and neighbouring Al Musalla. From three villages north of Rada' the answers of 57 women in 24 houses are recorded. Interviews take place with key informants from the traditional and modern health sector. 40 women are asked about family planning and approximately 20 for prenatal care, postnatal care, or infant and child care.

It has been assumed that the high number of male migrants and the position of women are reflected in existing practices. In Rada' town trade ranks second to migration as source of income. Only women from lower social levels generate an income as trader at women's parties, dressmaker etc.

Most food is bought, and requires on average YR 50 per day per family. Nutritional standard is 'fairly good'. People live in mud houses of which approximately 75% is connected to the municipal water supply. Urine and sewage run into the streets, which are cleaned once or twice a year.

The women in Rada' keep themselves mainly occupied with housekeeping and looking after their children. They have no decision making power. Outside their home they are always veiled and will avoid to be seen in the marketplace. Their mobility depends on their age and their social status, seniority and lower background giving relatively greater freedom to move.
Female mobility in general has increased in general in recent years.

Shortterm instead of longterm male migration, the use of contraceptives, improved medical care and better infant nutrition as well as social standing and the emphasis on reproduction all affect fertility and infant mortality rates. Women have only very limited knowledge regarding their biological functions. During pregnancy workload and diet remain unchanged. Most deliveries occur without problems. 20% of the pregnant women consult the hospital or female gynaecologist. Ideally, women rest for 30 days after a delivery.

Comparing the average of 6 - 7 months for breastfeeding with the 13 months that Annika Bornstein found 5 years earlier in 1973 shows a marked decline. Lack of milk is the reason mentioned most often and especially under women of higher social strata for discontinuing breastfeeding. Bottlefeeding leads to malnutrition through the use of too little milkpowder, contaminated water and not by letting the child drink long enough.

Contraceptives are generally known but access is difficult. Men are less favourably inclined to its use than women. The MCH centre can be made into an extension of the female world and function mainly as an educational centre.

The villages visited are characterized by subsistence farming, a combination of crop husbandry and animal husbandry, although 50% of the male population is employed in a different sector. 70 - 80% of the women over 11 years participate in subsistence farming. For some women producing handicrafts or working in house-construction provides an income. Less food is bought and nutritional standard is judged to be lower than in town. Houses are constructed of mud and usually do not have a connection to a water supply or to a bathroom. Family size is the same as for Rada' town: 6.5.
Average female marriage age in villages is lower than in town and a slight preference exists for weddings between cousins (29% vs 25%). Rural women are generally illiterate and have a greater mobility within their village than townswomen. Their fertility rates are lower than those of townswomen as many young men have migrated. They tend to breastfeed much longer however. This practice is expected to decline in years to come.

During pregnancy the usual heavy workload was carried on, while food intake may decrease. Deliveries hardly ever take place outside the home, mainly supported by TBA's. One of the recommendations entails to reintroduce a mobile clinic for visits to the villages. This work is more important than having a clinic in the town, although it will be harder to staff a mobile clinic. For educational activities both in the town as in the villages the use of cassette tapes with messages is highly recommended.

In the annexes a list of food prices, local food dishes and a glossary of local terms regarding mother and child care are included.

YAR/MAF/RIRDP

*Household water use in Al Beida Province Technical Note number 10. Arnhem/IACO/1983 19pp*

Six households in six different villages within the project area of RIRDP are visited to study domestic water use as part of a prefeasibility study of water resources. Data are collected by spending between 30 - 48 hours with each household. Villages have been selected for their type of water supply: two have piped water in the homes, two have standpipes in the village and the
women of the remaining two villages collect water by donkey. Each village has electricity at night through a diesel generator until approximately 11 p.m..

In these villages garbage is not collected and no system has been developed to dispose of used water and human excreta. Waste is a relatively recent phenomenon through the introduction of plastic bags and tin cans. Children are allowed to relieve themselves wherever they are, which is a serious health problem. Only limited amounts of water are used. The availability of more water may cause problems when stagnant water starts to act as breeding ground.

Households with a piped water supply consume about 45 liters of water/day/head, compared to 21 liter/day/head in other households. Standpipes do no lead to increased water consumption in contrast to piped supply inside houses. All houses have outlets for excess water, usually pipes sticking outside the building. Bathrooms are small and have different outlets for urine and faeces.

No indication is found of any special treatment for drinking water. It is not boiled or obtained from a particular spot. Livestock will be given water already used in the kitchen to drink, mixed with food leftovers. Women are very aware of the importance of cleanliness, even though the scarcity of water and the ever-present dust make preserving this state difficult.

Villagers know the importance of clean water and would certainly be interested in improvements of their supply. The quality and supply of the water and the wishes and needs of local people should be investigated in each village in the project area. Educational campaigns regarding the treatment of (used) water and the potential threat to health by garbage need to be started. Possible changes in domestic water use are to be monitored and evaluated.
All households are farming households. Houses are constructed of stone, mud and natural plaster indoors. Cleaning is done by brushing while no water is used. Each house has several rooms and floors, a kitchen and usually a bathroom. Human faeces is collected for fertilization purposes and a separate hole is present for urine disposal, which often just falls next to the house and/or compound. Most households own a radio-cassette recorder and a television set.

The importance of cleanliness is recognized. People like to wash after lunch (the main meal of the day). Once a week, on Friday morning before weekly prayers, people wash themselves very thoroughly. Clothes are washed several times a week, near the water source. Most water is used in the kitchen: a small, dark, relatively bare room where smoke partially escapes through holes in the ceiling. Food is systematically washed before preparation.

Butagaz, paraffin and firewood are used as fuel. Firewood poses the biggest problem: it can be very expensive to buy and time-consuming to collect. For example: a camelload hardly enough for 5 days of cooking costs YR 120. The tannur (oven) in which the much favoured bread is prepared, can also be used with dungcakes as well as dried donkey droppings.

Food is stored in special rooms. Yemeni diet is more or less the same day by day. Breakfast consists of wheat bread possibly with ghee, and later bread, tea and smoked buttermilk. For lunch people eat sorghum porridge, meat or chickenbroth, some meat or chicken with bread and small onions. Vegetables are
eaten sparingly, yet this diet can be adequate as long as whole grains are used.

The number of households studied is too small to draw definite conclusions as to child care. When young, children are allowed to roam about, but soon boys will go to school whereas girls will help their mothers. Like the adults, children are cleaned thoroughly once a week, but babies are washed more often. Powdered milk is making its way into the villages, having an impact on breastfeeding practices.

Every household owns animals: cows, donkeys and chicken being most common. Cows are considered most important in view of time demands made on their caretakers and the value of their products. Cows are fed alfalfa and sorghum stalks. Their fodder needs to be cut daily. Moreover, they are handfed and this takes about 3 to 4 hours per day. Milking, done three times a day, takes another 45 minutes. Together with cutting fodder, a cow may require 7 hours of work per day, while it produces perhaps 3 liters of milk.

Although there are substantial variations in women's workloads depending on individual circumstances, an average working day of 12 hours is not extraordinary. Still, women seem to find time for handicrafts. In the kitchen improvements in ventilation and type of fuel used could be beneficial for women's health. Health extension and the reintroduction of a mobile clinic are advised to stimulate breastfeeding and preventive health messages. The time-consuming care of cows remains problematic. Introducing a mechanical churn is recommended.
Final report and recommendations of the Rada' seminar on integrated rural development as a means for improvement of conditions of life for women
Rada'/Women Training Center/1985 119 pp

From May 12 - 15, 1985 a seminar is organized by the Rada' Integrated Rural Development Project, where local and expatriate project staff and planners come together for the first time to discuss issues related to women's role in rural development. The main objectives include the specification of constraints encountered in project implementation as well as the proposal of appropriate local answers. The seminar aims at stimulating co-operation and co-ordination between projects, ministries and donor organizations active in development projects involving rural women. One problem which needs to be resolved concerns the difficulties in recruiting qualified Yemeni women.

Representatives of several projects and organizations present a contribution to the seminar about topics including an increase in women's economic productivity, female illiteracy, health, extension both in home economics as well as in agricultural activities, extension methodology and water and sanitation. Reports are given by the Women's Section of the Rada' Integrated Rural Development and the Southern Uplands Rural Development Project. Information is also provided about the activities involving women from the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and UNDP.

Recommendations include the organizing similar workshops in the future. Built up expertise and experience, including data collection, needs to be exchanged between projects and between sections inside projects. Women should partici-
pate in all phases of a project, which would ideally fit into a future common strategy for women's involvement in rural development. As part of such a strategy a Women's Extension Section should be established in the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. A training institute for women about rural development issues is seen as essential and the recruitment of female extension agents might be stimulated by including extension in the curricula of girls' schools. Women's Sections should be cooperating with a hopefully increased number of health workers in the area of health education as well as with domestic water supply projects. Assistance of the mass media is requested to stimulate functional literacy among women and extension messages.

The Yemeni Women's Associations, at present a loose coalition of urban groups, should come together in a national organization and make serious efforts to become active in the countryside. Expertise is still needed from outside, whereby a preference exists for Arab experts.
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