

## Technical Assistance to the Southern Yemen Land Remedies Commission

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A Presidential Decree established the Southern Yemen Land Remedies Commission in January 2013. Its mandate, as defined by the Decree, is to address grievances arising from the land rights violations in the south of the country since 1990 and to propose fair and realistic remedies such as land rights restitution, alternative land allocation and in some cases compensation. Since 2013, it has collected more than 120,000 claims.

This claims resolution process is taking place in a highly complex political and security environment during a crucial period of the transition in Yemen. Addressing the land grievances is of one of the main concerns of the population in the south and the success in addressing remaining land grievances will crucially determine the country's political future.

Addressing the land grievances in Southern Yemen in a satisfactory and sustainable manner does not only depend on the speed and quality of the Land Commission's work but also on a successful and timely enforcement and implementation of its decisions which in turn depends on the political will and capacity of a range of other administrative and governance entities in the south as well as at central level.

Following its past collaboration with IOM in the framework of the project in Kirkuk, Iraq, the USAID Office of Transition Initiatives approached IOM in 2013 to provide technical support to

Yemen's Land Commission. In addition to an extensive review of the legal framework and existing internal procedures, IOM also supported the development of claims forms and offered staff capacity support.

IOM also undertook an assessment of the substantive, procedural and capacity aspects of the current and future work of the Southern Yemen Land Commission. This initiative aimed to identify critical challenges, needs and gaps in order to provide the Commission with the adequate tools and recommend feasible and practical solutions to manage the challenges and reduce the risks.

Based on an assessment and in collaboration with other international partners IOM organised and oversaw a retreat for the staff of Yemen's Land Commission, the country's Land Authority as well as to officials of the City of Aden, the capital city in Southern Yemen, in Amman in May 2014. During the fruitful retreat, IOM supported stakeholders to review and analyse substantive and procedural aspects of the extensive claim resolution process ahead. Participants also discussed mechanisms for collaboration between various government bodies in the delivery of the recommendation of the Land Commission.

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