



## **Module 1: Policies and Strategies**

# **Yemen's rural access road project**

## **Session: 1.2**

### **Part 2 - Case Study (#3)**

#### **Presentation: 1.2b (#3)**

# 1. Introduction

## Learning Objectives

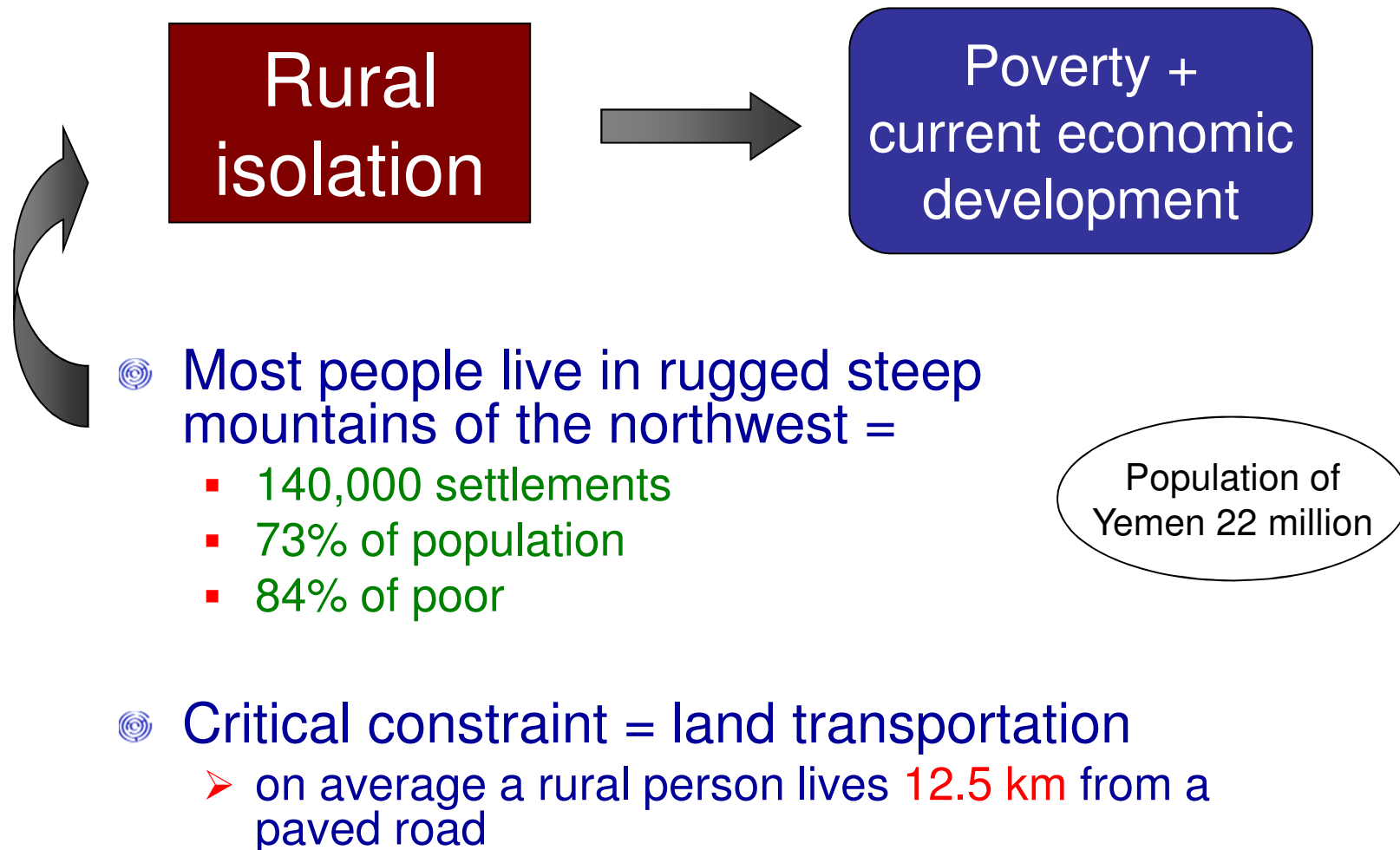
By the end of the session participants will be able to:

- ③ Describe the issues with rural access, poverty & economic development in Yemen
- ③ Explain the challenges and constraints of rural roads and transport
- ③ Describe the Rural Access Program (RAP)
- ③ Identify key lessons from RAP
- ③ Contrast lessons from the case study to their own country contexts
- ③ Analyse the links between rural access, economic development and poverty alleviation

# Session Overview

- ⦿ Rural access issues in Yemen
- ⦿ Institutional challenges
- ⦿ Rural Access Program (RAP)
- ⦿ Lessons from RAP1
- ⦿ Rural Access Program - RAP2 (phase 2)
- ⦿ Critique of the case study

## 2. Rural access issues: Yemen



# Situation of rural roads & access

- ◎ 11% (5,500 km) rural roads = paved/ all-weather
- ◎ Most unpaved rural roads = earth tracks in very poor condition
- ◎ Travel is
  - exhausting
  - extremely low speeds
  - high vehicle operating costs
- ◎ Roads often impassable due to rain
  - rural population lack reliable access to services and markets.
- ◎ 1/4 rural households have access to a paved road

# ... considerable improvement

Over two decades from 1990: -

- ⊙ Road networks = a national priority
- ⊙ Network of paved roads increased from 4,500 km to 14,000 km = 210%

Yet!

- ⊙ Despite this remarkable achievement, serious issues remain

# 3. Institutional Challenges

Poor budget allocation processes for rural road network – led to commitments that: -



- ⊙ Not approved by the parliament
- ⊙ Receive very little funding through the annual budgets
- ⊙ Road improvements not completed

## Result

... no sustainable accessibility improvements for the rural poor

An independent **road maintenance fund** with its own revenue source + maintenance planning capability was established.

**But!**

- ③ \$25 million a year was inadequate for road maintenance
- ③ Management, planning, organization of maintenance was inadequate
- ③ Annual budget for road maintenance from
  - road users - surcharge on fuel  
(\$5 million, 1/3 transferred to the governorates for local roads)
  - general budget allocations  
(\$20 million from Ministry of Finance and the MPWH)



## 4. Rural Access Program (RAP)

### Address poverty by:

- improving mobility in rural Yemen
- reducing isolation of villages



### Reduce isolation by:

- ⊙ Reliable access ~ local, regional, national road networks
- ⊙ Support decentralization
- ⊙ Complement community-based IDA programs
  - Social Fund Project
  - Public Works Project

# RAP 1, 2 and 3

## Phase 1 2001-2005

- ⦿ Pilot physical interventions
- ⦿ Institutional, participatory framework
  - planning, prioritization, maintenance of intermediate road network

## Phase 2 2006-2010

- ⦿ Improvement & maintenance of intermediary road network + village access roads
- ⦿ Capacity building: central & Governorate
- ⦿ Credit available 2006 – 2013
  - i.e. RAP2 was extended

## Phase 3 2013-2017

- ⦿ Expand physical interventions of rural access improvements
  - for areas not yet covered in Phase 2



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