Urban Development Project

*Shibam, Yemen*

The basic strategy of this development project is not one of historic conservation but of developing the economic, social and administrative base to ensure the vitality and continuity of the city within its new regional context. The programme has two main components: technical assistance and financial assistance, allowing owners and residents of the historic city to restore, upgrade and maintain their buildings. The other task of the project is the revitalisation of the local economy. To date, about 100 owners have already renovated their houses.

**Architect:** GTZ Shibam Office

**Client:** Local Community

**Built Area:** n.a.

**Cost:** n.a.
A World Heritage Site

The program is composed of two main components: technical assistance and financial assistance. The Technical Assistance (TA) is the first form of assistance provided by the Housing Program to the owners and residents of the historic city of Shibam to secure, upgrade and maintain their buildings. It involves providing technical expertise to the house owners to conduct the following tasks:

- Monitoring building conditions and documenting the houses in its current condition, including its architectural, structural conditions, its plumbing and electricity systems, and its historic significance.
- Analysing the existing problems in the building including material conditions, structural problems and the state of the environment.
- Preparing a five-year maintenance plan that identifies the necessary works and capacities.
- Preparing cost estimates for the works.

Technical teams were each composed of one expert Italian, one architect and one civil engineer. The programme was able to document a substantial knowledge base of the construction process and structural performance of the historic buildings. Following the completion of the project, the technical teams handed over the necessary documentation and the necessary maintenance work to the owners of the houses, ensuring the sustainability of the project for a minimum of five years.

The Shibam Urban Development Project (SUDP) provided funding for the technical teams, while the financial assistance was provided by the German Federal Development Ministry (BMZ). This latter enabled the Italian teams to carry out extensive structural, architectural and other technical work. However, the SUDP, as one of the most remarkable projects in recent history of Shibam, the weekly market, and the tourist industry, is a real highlight of ongoing efforts to conserve the World Heritage Site of Shibam.
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SECTION A - A
MAIN ELEVATION (WEST ELEV.)
Urban Development Project, Shibam, Yemen
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Progress Map of SHIP
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