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## INTRODUCTION

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The Standards Alliance is a public-private partnership between the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and USAID designed to assist developing countries in effectively implementing their commitments under the WTO's Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) agreement.

The main objectives of the overall Standards Alliance program includes increased understanding of WTO TBT principles, encourage transparency in the development and alteration of technical regulations, and improve implementation of the TBT Agreement's Code of Good Practice for the preparation, adoption and application of standards, with the larger goal of promoting trade and economic development.

The Yemen Standardization Metrology and Quality Control Organization (YSMO) has submitted a proposed statement of work for engagement under the Standards Alliance, and a joint assessment was conducted with YSMO, ANSI, USTR and other partners in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in January 2014. In addition to providing assistance to Yemen, the Standards Alliance expects to leverage this proposal to increase cooperation between the U.S. and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Standards Organization (GSO). The results of those meetings, as well as consultations with stakeholders in both countries have informed this work plan.

The Standards Alliance project for Yemen has the following objectives:

- Strengthen the capacity of Yemen's WTO TBT Enquiry Point, including notification to the WTO Secretariat of technical regulations and distribution of notifications to Yemeni stakeholders.
- Raise awareness of WTO TBT principles within Yemen and encourage private sector engagement and involvement.
- Increase Yemen's participation in the development of international standards.
- Strengthen the capacity of national and regional government institutions, to support programs and projects related to standardization, certification and accreditation.

The specific program tasks under the Yemen Standards Alliance Project in the first year (described in more detail in the next section) include:

- Training for YSMO enquiry point staff on TBT principles, responsibilities of enquiry points, and notification procedures
- Seminars to raise awareness among stakeholders in Yemen's government and private sector about TBT tools and resources

- Self-assessment by YSMO on the structure and process for standardization in Yemen
- Training for YSMO staff and other relevant officials on technical committee management, secretariat skills, and standards management

Following completion of the year one activities, expected outcomes of the initiative include:

- Increased capacity in YSMO enquiry point and at least 5 notifications issued to WTO Secretariat
- Detailed roadmap for improving the standardization process and structure in Yemen
- Increase in Yemen's participation in international standardization
- Established connections between YSMO and SDO's of interest

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## ACTIVITIES

In support of the overall project objectives listed above, this section outlines the activities that have already been identified to be carried out in the first year (2014-2015). To the extent possible, the activities listed include the full scope of work. Some activities may require further discussion between counterparts in Yemen and the U.S., and other activities may be added to the work plan upon mutual agreement by ANSI and YSMO, and pending availability of resources. Where possible, the activities described will be coordinated with activities of the GSO its other member states.

### 1. Training for YSMO Enquiry Point

ANSI will work with the U.S. enquiry point at NIST to facilitate a 2 ½-3 day training program for enquiry point officials designated by YSMO. ANSI and USAID will coordinate logistics including selecting and negotiating with a venue, translation and interpretation, printing of materials, inviting and registering participants. NIST staff or qualified consultant will lead the development of the agenda with Yemen, develop the content and presentations for the training, and conduct any necessary pre-training surveys to assess inquiry point capacity.

### 2. Awareness building seminars for Yemeni stakeholders

In order to raise awareness among government agencies and private sector stakeholders, ANSI will work with YSMO to organize 2-3 seminars covering topics such as:

- WTO TBT principles
- Types of enquiries received from WTO members, and process for answering them
- Benefits of commenting on TBT notifications, both domestic and foreign

The seminars may be conducted in conjunction with similar regional activities in the Gulf region, and will include participation from U.S. experts in government and private sector. Upon the recommendation of YSMO, separate seminars for government and private sector stakeholders may be organized.

### 3. YSMO self-assessment

YSMO has placed high importance of improving the overall structure and procedures for standardization in Yemen. To begin, ANSI will provide assistance to YSMO in conducting a self-assessment and gap

analysis in order to determine the specific areas for improvement and develop a roadmap for activities to address the priorities. The output of this activity will be a roadmap document outlining steps for ANSI and others to assist YSMO with in future project periods.

**4. Training on standards management and TC/Secretariat skills**

In order to meet YSMO’s goal of increasing participation in ISO and other international standards bodies, training will be provided for YSMO staff and others involved in the management of international and mirror committees, and implementation of guidelines provided by ISO/IEC and other international standards bodies.

**SCHEDULE**

The schedule envisioned for the implementation of the activities described above is shown below.

	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sept-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15	Apr-15	May-15
<b>Enquiry Point training</b>												
Set date/location for training												
Agree on draft agenda												
Hold training												
<b>Awareness building seminars</b>												
Set date/location for seminar												
Agree on draft agenda												
Hold seminars												
<b>YSMO Self-assessment</b>												
Agree on content and model												
Conduct assessment												
Periodic review												
Roadmap complete												
<b>Training on standards/TC management</b>												
Set date/location for training												
Agree on draft agenda												
Hold training												