

Educational Development in Hadhramaut

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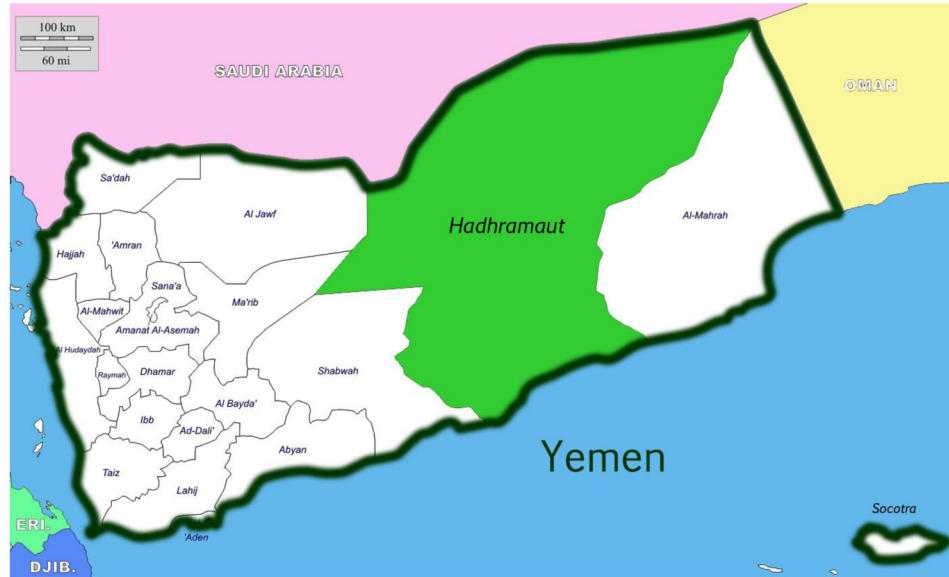
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This chapter will define the goals and describe the methods of Friends of Hadhramaut's (FOH), a UK-based charitable trust, efforts to nurture the seeds that will evolve to embrace the goals of the knowledge economy (KE) in Hadhramaut. As a charitable organization, FOH focuses its support on the health/medical and educational sectors of society. FOH has made additional strides to focus on girls' education and on those who have what we call "learning disabilities," a label which covers a broad range of dysfunctions. This chapter will focus on FOH's methodology and achievements in the educational sector.

INTRODUCTION

The reader will likely ask, "Where is Hadhramaut"? As shown in the map (Friends of Hadhramaut Newsletter, 2021) below, it is the largest of Yemen's 17 provinces (also frequently referred to as "Governorates") and found on the south coast of the Arabian Peninsula on the Indian Ocean as shown in Figure 1.

*Figure 1. Map of Yemen and the Hadhramaut
(Friends of Hadhramaut Newsletter, 2021)*



This chapter will define the goals and describe the methods of a UK based Charitable Trust's, "The Friends of Hadhramaut" (FOH), efforts to nurture the seeds that will evolve to embrace the goals of the Knowledge Economy (KE). Embracing the goals does not necessarily mean achieving them. Let the reader be under no illusion. Yemen is a desperately poor country by any measure. Undoubtedly its one bright spot is that the Civil War in the mountainous western part of the country has not moved to the eastern part of the country where Hadhramaut is located . . . yet. As a charitable organization the FOH focuses its support on the health/medical and educational sectors of society (Friends of Hadhramaut Newsletter, 2021) though recently the situation has become so dire that the FOH has imported foodstuffs. In the education sector the FOH has made additional strides to focus on Girls' education and on those with what we call "learning disabilities," a label which covers a broad range of disabilities. This chapter will focus on the FOH's methodology and achievements in the educational sector.

Background

In order to better understand the current situation in Hadhramaut, let us, for a moment, take a short trip back through history. Although hardly a household word in the West today, the Hadhramaut has enjoyed moments of glory and recognition over the thousands of years of its historical existence. The Hadhramaut was perhaps first noted in history as part of that long swath of land along the Arabian Peninsula's south coast called the "Land of Frankincense and Myrrh" during Greco-Roman times (Disto, 2021). It also became associated with the Kingdom of Saba (of Queen of Sheba fame). Because of its poverty Hadhramis emigrated abroad as far back as perhaps 700 BC. Hadhramis became famous for creating an arc of Hadhrami colonies around the Indian ocean from India down the East Africa Coast and, later populating Indonesia (Wikipedia, 2021). In fact, many prominent businessmen, especially in the Arabian (Persian) Gulf countries are descendants of Hadhrami immigrants. In modern times the Hadhramaut

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