

Annex 1: Yemen's Water Cycle



The chart illustrates Yemen's water cycle in a simplified and schematic form. As from the perspective of the current user, there are two renewable (rain and rechargeable aquifers) and one non-renewable (fossil groundwater / deep aquifers) water sources. When it comes to groundwater, competing users are irrigated agriculture, urban and rural households, and industry / commerce / institutional. The cycle is not a "perpetuum mobile", but is kept alive by a continuous water influx originating in unsustainable groundwater mining. In some regions, this machinery has started to show substantial malfunctions affecting life style and potentially survival.