



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Supporting Resilient Livelihoods and Food Security in Yemen (ERRY II) Joint Programme



Co-funded by
the European Union



Sida



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ACRYNOMS

BCHD	Bena Charity for Humanitarian Development
CBT	Competency-Based Training
CFW	Cash for Work
DMTs	District Management Teams
EU	European Union
EFD	Enjaz Foundation for Development
FAF	For All Foundation
FAO	Food & Agriculture Organization
FFS	Farmers' Field School
FFA	Food assistance For Assets
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
ILO	International Labor Organization
IP	Implementing Partner
IRY	Islamic Relief Yemen
IRG	the Internationally Recognized Government of Yemen
LTA	long-term Agreement
JCU	Joint-Coordination Unit
MDF	Millennium Development Foundation
MFD	Mayar Foundation for Development
MFB	My First Business
MoPIC	Ministry of Planning & International Cooperation
NAS	Needs Assessment Survey
OCHA	(UN) Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OECD	The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PUNO	Partnering United Nations Organizations
RI	Relief International
SCMCHA	Supreme Council for the Management and Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and International Cooperation
SFCD	Steps Foundation for Civil Development
SFCG	Search for Common Ground
SDF	Social Fund for Development
SDCs	Sub-district level Committees
SFD	Sustainable Development Foundation
Sida	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SCI	Save the Children International
STC	The Southern Transitional Council
TEVT	Technical Education and Vocational Training
ToT	Training of Trainers
TYF	Tamdeen Youth Foundation
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
VCC	Village Cooperation Council
WFP	World Food Programme
WUA	Water-Users Association
YLDF	Youth Leadership Development Foundation

PROGRAMME DETAILS

Programme Title	Supporting Resilient Livelihoods and Food Security in Yemen - Joint Programme (ERRY II)	
Contract No.	MIDEAST/2019/405-606	
Implementation Period	March 2019 - February 2022	
Total Contracted amount	USD 51,853,858	
Donors	EU & SIDA	
Participating UN Organization (PUNO)	UNDP, FAO, WFP, ILO	
Administrative Agent (AA)	Multi Partners Trust Fund (MPTF)	
Convening Agent	UNDP	
Implementing Partners	Care Int'l, RI, IRY, SCI, SFD, SDF, OXFAM, FAF, MDF, SFCG, YLDF, EFD, Musanada Foundation, MFD, GHADAQ FOUNDATION, BCHD, Tamdeen Youth Foundation, Steps Foundation	
Target Beneficiaries	Direct	740,404
	Indirect	601,278

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Supporting Resilient Livelihoods and Food Security in Yemen (ERRY II) joint programme has made considerable progress in 2020, the second year of implementation. The various components of the programme: agriculture value chain, food assistance for assets, emergency employment and livelihood, skills and entrepreneurship development, solar energy, and local governance and social cohesion have all managed to make good achievements despite the tremendous challenges brought by COVID-19 and delay in issuance of implementation permits in the north. In terms of overall progress, the implementation in the southern region has continued as planned while, in the north, most of the implementing partners received implementation approval from the national and local authorities only towards the middle of 2020; however, they could catch up with the target by the end of 2020. The programme has created short term employment and livelihoods opportunities, contributed to improve household income and food security by rehabilitating key community assets through the implementation of Food assistance for assets (FFA) activities, as well as restoring community market assets through 3x6 approach. Vulnerable farming households have been supported to improve their income generation and agricultural production and self-employment through the development of agriculture value chain. Sustainable livelihoods opportunities have been created for vulnerable youth and women who participated in the post cash-for-work phase to support employability and self-employment through apprenticeship scheme, skills development, and provision of microbusiness grants. Solar Energy based small businesses that supported by the programme have created employment opportunities and increased income for women and men. Moreover, the programme has enhanced the capacity of local institutions and improved access to basic services; the implemented activities included the formation of sub-district level committees (SDCs) & district management committees (DMTs), the development community resilience plans at the subdistrict level and recovery plans at the district level, and implementation of prioritized interventions mainly for the rehabilitation of public services by supporting communities to rebuild or construct schools, health centers, community infrastructures, water networks etc. Access to basic services has also been improved through installation of off-grid solar systems in public institutions, health facilities, and schools, as well as the provision of solar off-grid vaccine refrigerators.

Implementing partners in the southern and northern regions responded to COVID-19 with preventive measures such as awareness creation, installed handwashing stations, and distributed protective gears to their field staff and targeted communities. Due to COVID-19 arrival, the implementing partners

encountered significant mobility restriction challenges, fear of virus spread, and infection threat to the frontline staff. In response to the above threats, the project team developed the business continuity plan (BCP) and recalibrated activities to implement during COVID-19 and beyond. The project also harnessed innovative approaches in continuing the activities, such as facilitating online trainings and grouping emergency employment beneficiaries in small groups to avoid virus spread.

Key Achievements during the reporting period

- 5,112 individuals were provided with emergency employment through cash-for-work activities, generating a combined income of USD 306,720.
- 5,112 individuals received business and skill development training to establish microbusinesses.
- 1,335 individuals established microbusiness and improved their access to income \$100/month.
- 102 public facilities were solarized to resume the critical functions in schools, health centers and public offices.
- 2,000 HHs received COVID-19 hygiene kits for protection and to prevent the spread of the virus.
- 104 insider mediators were trained on conflict resolution and analysis.
- 14 participants attended a training on Gender mainstreaming organized by SEARCH for ERRY II implementing partners.
- 57 community resilience plans and 23 sub-districts block grants were implemented to improve access to basic services and reduce conflicts.
- 133 community assets were restored and/or established; \$2,528,726.51 cash assistance was received by 8,902 individuals working on the community assets through FFA to improve their access to food.
- 590 apprentices were trained on life skills, financial literacy and theoretical training in selected occupations followed by on job training at workplaces.
- 320 master craftspersons were trained on learning methodologies, CBT/A and OSH under the apprenticeship scheme.
- 50 Individuals were trained to improve their employability skills in solar energy micro-enterprises.
- 68 TOTs were trained on I OWN A SMALL BUSINESS curriculum targeting semiliterate beneficiaries.
- 5,500 farmers received animal feeds to enhance milk production and fattening of the livestock.
- 1,182 female farmers provided with small and medium size dairy equipment for collection, processing and marketing milk.
- 1,425 farmers trained on dairy processing, proper method of milking, & fattening.
- 3,500 rural farmers were supported with improved fodder crops to improve livestock productivity.

The programme monitoring and evaluation system was strengthened for accountability and more effective implementation of the programme. Measures undertaken include: revision of planning and monitoring tools; initiating third-party monitoring activities; supporting IPs and local communities to enhance their monitoring capacity; strengthening the coordination and knowledge sharing mechanism. Also, a Result Oriented Monitoring review (ROM) was conducted by EU contracted consultant.

2. BACKGROUND

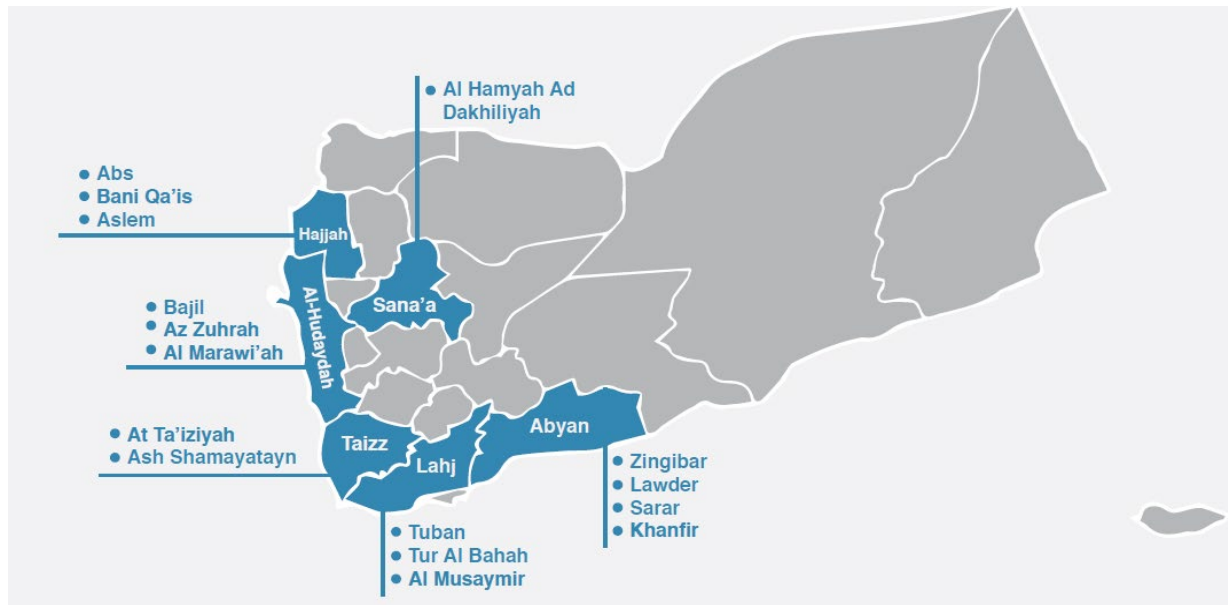
The first phase of ERRY Joint Programme, funded by EU, implemented key activities that resulted in improved livelihoods and food security of vulnerable rural communities as well as strengthened resilience and economic self-reliance. The second phase of ERRY Joint Programme, "Supporting Resilient Livelihoods and Food Security in Yemen (ERRY II)", funded by EU and SIDA, has capitalized on the gains made and lessons learned in ERRY I. Thus, the initiative was scaled up for another phase of three years (March 2019-February 2022) with the aim of enhancing resilience, food security, livelihood capitals, and self-reliance of crisis-affected rural communities in Yemen while contributing to disaster risk reduction in accordance with the 2030 Agenda.

ERRY II Joint Programme is being implemented by FAO, ILO, UNDP, and WFP in sixteen selected districts within six vulnerable governorates across Yemen: Hajjah, Hodeida, Lahj, Abyan, Taiz, and Sana'a. The interventions of ERRY II target the most vulnerable community groups, including women, the unemployed youth, the Muhamasheen, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and stressed host communities.

The overall objective of the programme is to contribute to reduce vulnerability and strengthen the resilience capacity of crisis-affected communities in Yemen through the creation of sustainable livelihoods and access to essential services. The specific objective (Outcome) of the program is "Crisis-affected communities are better able to manage local risks and shocks for increased resilience and self-reliance". The joint program is expected to achieve the following results over the implementation timeframe:

- **Output 1:** Community livelihoods, productive assets, and food security are improved to strengthen resilience and self-reliance.
- **Output 2:** Vulnerable communities benefited from solar energy for sustainable livelihoods opportunities and enhanced social service delivery; and
- **Output 3:** Communities and local authorities enhanced capacities to respond to conflict and gender-sensitive priorities needs.

ERRY II Targeted Governorates and Districts



To build the resilience of the affected communities in the protracted crisis, ERRY II joint programme, since its inception, has focused on service delivery, jobs and employment creation, and enhancement of productive assets and capacities. Efforts were made to build the local capacity to make communities self-reliant, and thus prevent them from falling into the vulnerability cycle of the crisis. Furthermore, affected districts have managed to revitalize small scale service delivery, continued to have a minimum income, and strengthen cohesion among displaced, returnees, refugees, and host communities.

Yemen remains the world's worst humanitarian and development crisis as the war grinds on into its seventh year. The protracted crisis, compounded by Covid-19 situation, has severely affected food security and income of rural households. The cumulative impact of armed conflict, economic decline, and institutional collapse has affected people's livelihood and food security leaving 24 million people – about 80 percent of the population – in need of humanitarian aid, protection, and development.

In 2020, the armed conflict intensified and escalated in several areas. Over a couple of a hundred thousand people have been killed either directly as a result of hostilities or indirectly due to inadequate supplies of food, healthcare and infrastructure. 172,000 people had to flee their homes seeking safety and shelter, bringing the number of Internally Displaced People (IDPs) to 4 million, making Yemen now the fourth largest IDP crisis globally¹.

¹ HNO 2021

Renewed fighting in Marib, Sana'a, Al Jawf, Al Hodeidah, and Aden in the first months of 2020 undermined confidence in the political negotiations in Yemen. The IRG publicly withdrew from the committee monitoring the ceasefire in Al Hodeidah in March 2020. The STC announced self-rule in the south, raising serious questions about the future of the Riyadh Agreement. Renewed fighting is expected across all major frontlines, increasing the number of airstrikes, civilian casualties, and displacements. In the south, the conflict between STC and the IRG is likely to increase as the Riyadh Agreement stalls. The fight in Marib has continued till the end of the year and it is expected to be galvanized further in 2021.

The economy and the currency continued to collapse. This collapse is most visible in loss of income, depreciation of the Yemeni rial (YER), loss of Government revenue, commercial import restrictions and rising commodity prices. More than 40 percent of Yemeni households are estimated to have lost their primary source of income.

COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the situation. It has led to a sharp drop in remittances – the largest source of foreign currency and a lifeline for many families. Moreover, COVID-19, and other disease outbreaks have overburdened the weak health system, resulting in under-use of health services and complicating the delivery of services, which has compounded the effects of growing food insecurity and limited hygiene and sanitation services, particularly for women and children.

A fuel crisis in the north with a sharp decrease in the availability of fuel in official fuel stations has driven consumers to unofficial markets at hugely inflated prices. In the south fuel shortages have also remained a serious challenge due to diminishing foreign reserves. The high cost of fuel prices and shortage has forced up the cost of essential items, goods and materials, which have seriously impacted the lives of hundreds of thousands of families.

Yemen is ranked among the countries least prepared for climate shocks and natural hazards, and among the most vulnerable to climate change. Between April and August 2020, heavy rains and flooding devastated communities, causing deaths and injuries, destroying infrastructure and livelihoods, and increasing the spread of deadly diseases. In 2020, once-in-a generation flooding devastated southern communities and fueled the spread of diseases like cholera, dengue, malaria and diphtheria. Tens of thousands of families were affected, many of them already displaced. Other natural

hazards pose a threat, including desert locust infestations, which are expected to cause damage and loss worth \$222 million.

Since mid-April, more than 30 core UN programmes were downsized and some closed, putting the lives of millions of people who depend on aid every month on the line. Already, at the start of 2020, the number of people reached with assistance each month had decreased from an average of 15.2 million people per month in the last quarter of 2019 to 13.5 million in the first two months of the year – a decrease in assistance was reported in 155 districts in 21 governorates with Sana’a, Dhamar, and Ibb governorates and Sana’a City worst affected. If aid agencies are unable to scale up again, millions of lives will be at serious risk and the situation will be catastrophic for those already facing malnutrition, food insecurity and disease. The rapid spread of the COVID-19 pandemic heralds another potential tragedy, low immunity levels across the population makes the preservation of large-scale aid programmes in the health, WASH, nutrition and other sectors vital if millions of vulnerable people are to withstand the virus.

3. PROGRESS TOWARDS RESULTS

3.1 Progress towards the outputs:

Despite the challenges faced during the reporting period, ERRY II joint programme has managed to support targeted communities and households improve their food security, nutrition and economic empowerment.

Output 1: Community livelihoods, productive assets and food security are improved to strengthen resilience and self-reliance

Under this output, several income generation activities have been implemented to increase resilience and reduce food insecurity of crisis affected beneficiaries in the assisted communities. Vulnerable farming households improved their self-employment and access to income through the agriculture value chain. Emergency employment opportunities have been created by rehabilitating key community assets through the implementation of Food assistance for assets (FFA) activities. The 3x6 step by step approach has not only provided beneficiaries with temporary income, but also built capacity through training and skills development and provided small financial grants to kick start microbusinesses. Beneficiaries were able to select businesses that suited their interests and capabilities while taking into account local market realities. The programme has conducted a market value chain study focusing on seven different sectors to provide the necessary market information for informed decision making.

Activity Result 1.1: Skills developed, and food security improved for vulnerable farming households

Agriculture is the mainstay and key sector in Yemen, providing employment to more than 50 percent of the labor force with rural population accounting for 70-75 percent of the total population.

The protracted crisis, compounded by Covid-19 situation, has severely affected food security and income of rural households. This situation accentuates the existing large food-deficit and the poor performance of agriculture sector, making majority of Yemeni people to rely heavily on imported food items, accounting for almost 90 percent of staple food (cereals and dairy products).

ERRYII continues to support key agricultural value chain opportunities identified and supported during ERRY I. The value chains were those identified through participatory assessment and prioritized as source of cash income and food security, good market growth opportunities, good potential for smallholder farmers' participation and opportunities for addressing technical challenges existed. The following value chains are supported:



- Improvement in small-scale backyard sheep/goat fattening business (women constituting more than 50% of target beneficiaries)
- Improvement of small-scale milk production, home processing and milk hygiene standards through supporting to women, dairy producers & milk collectors.
- Improvement of feeds and fodders for animal feeding
- Improvement of sorghum, millet and legumes production and productivity
- Improving tomato production

The overarching strategy in delivering improved and sustainable value chains include (1) inputs and productive assets like fodder choppers, coffee processing equipment, sheep/goat housing, irrigation facilities, dairy equipment, animal feeds, seeds (millet, sorghum, cowpea, tomato), etc. and (2) skilling through training in good agriculture (crop and livestock) practices and good and feed production, processing and marketing, enterprise skills development.

Indicators	Overall Target	Achievement Year I	Achievement Year II	Total Progress	Remarks
# of farmers provided with inputs to improve sorghum/millet, tomato, and coffee value chains (disaggregated by gender)	25,250	0	0	0	Distribution of sorghum, millet and cowpea seeds not done because seeds arrived when it was off-season.
# of farmers benefited from FFS (disaggregated by gender)	6,500 (50% women)	700	1,425	2,125	Registration of beneficiaries took longer than expected and distribution of tomato seeds was not done
# of farmers supported to improve livestock productivity		3,700	11,704	15,404	Progress affected by long process of beneficiaries' registration
# of dairy producers supported with inputs (disaggregated by gender)	6,000 (90% women)	0	1,182 (100% women)	1,182	The reported progress is only for southern governorates. Implementation in northern governorates not commenced yet.
# of farmers trained on sorghum/millet, tomato, milk and coffee value chains, livestock fattening & health, dairy product processing and marketing	25,000 (50% women)	900	1,425	2,325	Reported progress in three-targeted governorates in southern Yemen. Implementation in northern Yemen not commenced yet.
# of farmers trained on entrepreneurship skills and financial literacy	1,200	0	0	0	TOT conducted to expand list of trainers who will deliver training for beneficiaries
# of rural farmers associations providing training to upgrade members' technical and entrepreneurship skill	80	0	0	0	Agri Needs Assessment for Cooperatives conducted; Capacity development interventions identified
Proportion of the targeted beneficiaries reporting increase in their income due to AVC support	70%	0	0	0	

- The programme has identified key agricultural value chain opportunities through market assessment and participatory community validation.
 - Needs assessment survey was conducted in two governorates in southern Yemen which mapped out new villages in the target districts, identified potential crop, livestock and feed value chains, beneficiaries' targeting criteria and new beneficiaries;
 - Foundation for formation of new Village Agricultural Producers' Groups (VAPGs) laid through grouping neighbouring villages in the target districts;
 - 22 VAPs formed in six districts in three governorates in southern Yemen.
- Farmers have been supported to improve sorghum/millet value chain through provision of improved seeds and capacity building. Sorghum, millet and legumes production are critical food security crops

and most food-insecure people depend on them. The following actions have been undertaken in support of cereal/legume value chains.

- 7,600 beneficiaries selected to be provided with support to engage in sorghum, millet and legume production through rain fed agriculture.
- Procured and prepositioned 127.5 MT of cereal seeds for distribution to beneficiaries in northern and southern Yemen.
- 6,600 beneficiary HHs provided with cereal kits comprised of 25 kg of sorghum, 20 kg of millet and 5 kg of cowpea seeds.

➤ Farmers have also been supported to improve tomato value chains through provision of improved seeds, fertilizers, marketing and capacity building; this addresses critical issues faced by tomato farmers, who are experiencing very low productivity and losses because of diseases and insect pests (mainly Tuta Absoluta):

- 2 450 beneficiary households targeted for support with tomato seeds and fertilizers;
- Procured and prepositioned high-quality tomato seeds for distribution to the targeted beneficiaries in project areas in southern governorates.
- 2,000 beneficiary HHs provided with tomato seeds



Group of farmers looking at the production of tomato seeds provided by ERRYII Joint Programme.

➤ Moreover, farmers have been supported to improve livestock productivity through provision and development of feed resources, fodder and capacity building; this action is to address poor animal feeding in Yemen occurring due to a shortage of feed, poor quality feed, high prices of sorghum stovers and fodder that is inefficiently used (leftovers can exceed 40-50 percent). The following has been undertaken:

- Training undertaken for 400 farmers in planting, management and harvesting alfalfa and Rhodes grass for fodder drawn from three districts in Abyan and Lahj governorates.

- 14 choppers for processing fodder distributed targeting 400 farmers
- One hundred and fifty (150) farmers selected and provided with alfalfa, Rhodes grass seeds to improve food production.

➤ Smallholder dairy farmers have also been supported to improve milk production through provision of small dairy equipment, marketing and capacity building, including empowering female-headed households to process and market improved traditional dairy products. Improvement of milk hygiene standards and milk marketing is to stimulate demand and supply and increase market price. The intervention aims at empowering females to engage in dairy value chains to enhance income generation through growing demand for their improved quality products. Under this action, the following have been delivered.

- 1,611 women trained in appropriate milking and milk hygiene practices and processing. The trained target women beneficiaries were drawn 85 villages in six districts of Abyan, Lahj and Taiz governorates.
- Assorted dairy equipment (refrigerators, milk cans, iceboxes, assorted sizes food grade plastic containers) and chemicals to improve milk hygiene

procured and delivered awaiting distribution to beneficiaries. Support 5000 smallholder dairy producers to increase milk supply by improving milk hygiene standards by distributing stainless-steel milk cans and milk filters. Farmers also supported to improve milk productivity through capacity building and feeding technologies.



A farmer in Abyan governorate feeling happy about his alfalfa & Rhodes grass Production.



Processing Dairy Unit members in Lahj standing in front of their dairy products.

- Female-headed households have been empowered to develop small-scale backyard sheep/goat fattening businesses by providing small equipment, feed, vaccines, drugs, marketing facilities and capacity building; the intervention aims at increasing the productivity of the small-scale backyard sheep/goat fattening through improved animal feeding, housing and health. Sheep/goats are the main cash source for most rural farmers to meet their immediate needs of household expenditure (mainly food). The intervention also contributes to economic empowerment of rural women through improved food security, employment and income generation. The following have been achieved.



Improving animal feeding via providing feeding blocks.

- Procuring the following animal feeds:
 - 397.6 MT of sugar molasses for distribution in two governorates in the south
 - 340.8 MT of wheat bran for distribution to beneficiaries in two southern governorates
 - 704 MT of feed blocks
 - 11,000 beneficiaries for support with animal feeding registered.
 - 7,204 beneficiaries provided with wheat bran and feed blocks and 3,500 beneficiaries provided with sugar molasses.
- The programme contributes to upgrading the skills and knowledge of farmers/women through comprehensive programme of training, farmer field schools and extension materials and demonstrations. The action is to address problem of low knowledge and technical skills of smallholder producers due to weak linkages between producers and extension delivery system of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI). Overall, 30,000 farmers (20,000 direct and 10,000 indirect) are targeted for good agriculture (crop/livestock) practices through FFSs approach which includes training sessions and extension materials. 700 farmers organized into Farmer Field School (FFS) groups trained on priority topics,



During farmer field schools in Abyan governorate

mainly good animal husbandry practices in animal fattening and dairy production. Number trained and locations detailed in the table below.

Gov.	District	# of FFS	# of participants
Abyan	Khanfar	16	400
	Zanjibar	8	200
	Lawder	5	125
Lahj	Tuban	10	250
	Tur AlBaha	8	200
Taiz	Shamyateen	10	250
Total		28	1,425

- The programme works on training rural farmers and rural farmer associations on entrepreneurship skills, market information and financial literacy in selected value chains.
- In preparation of the rural farmer associations training, ILO conducted Agricultural Needs Assessment in coordination with FAO for Cooperatives, farmers/producers groups, and other similar organizations engaged in the project value chain activities is to understand the current situation, their capacities, strengths, weaknesses and needs and provided the recommendations for improving the performance of cooperatives including capacity building, and to guide future ILO's interventions in related value chains. The recommendations of assessment showed the needs to build the capacity rural farmers and associations through ILO COOPs training packages, which go through conducting TOT for local trainers and actors then to tackle training for direct beneficiaries from cooperatives, value chain groups, female entrepreneurs and other rural organizations. Preparation for TOT and identifying the potential trainers is on progress.
- Provide training to women engaged in rural agriculture on business development services, marketing skills, savings schemes, diversification of livelihoods.

Based on an assessment of the target group readiness and internal technical discussions, ILO has decided to continue using the existing training package of "I own a small business" instead of the proposed "Get Ahead" and "WDB business" training packages which are found to be less suitable. This training package is intended to capacitate women engaged in agriculture on business development services, marketing skills, savings schemes, diversification of livelihoods, etc. Consequently, to expand

number of trainers under I own a small business training package, ILO conducted TOT workshop on the semiliterate training package “I own a small business” for 52 trainers. In an effort to move forward with the implementation of activities amidst COVID-19, the ILO conducted the TOT workshops in a mixed training format, combining pre-recorded sessions, online / live sessions and working sessions with local trainers. In the coming reporting period, the training will be conducted for final beneficiaries.

Impact Summary

Support to agriculture value chain development contributed to following changes:

- Increased milk production and income
- Improved milk handling, increased access to market and income of households
- Improved animal productivity and production as the result of better feeding practices.

Activity Result 1.2: Livelihoods are stabilized, and community assets rehabilitated through labour intensive emergency employment for vulnerable households and individuals (UNDP and WFP)

Indicators	Overall Target	Achievement Year I	Achievement Year II	Total Progress	Remarks
# of participants in Food/Cash for Assets interventions	12,950 30% women	2,627	8,902	11,529	
# of beneficiaries benefitting from FFA cash/food transfers	90,650 individuals	18,389	62,314	80,703	
# of community-based assets restored and/or established (disaggregated by type)	325	58	133	191	
Total amount of cash transferred to targeted beneficiaries	\$6,992,500	\$969,193	\$2,528,726	\$4,009,441	In addition to a contribution of \$ 511,522 from WFP resources to allow WFP and partners to complete more assets
Proportion of the population in targeted communities reporting benefits from an enhanced livelihood asset base through FFA using Asset Benefit Index	50%	70%	70%		
# of community Market assets restored through 3x6	70	1	27	28	
# of beneficiaries participating in CFW activities through 3x6	9,550	960	5,211	6,171	

Food Assistance for Asset: Food Assistance for Assets activities implemented by WFP focus on building and rehabilitating sustainable community assets that have short-term and long-term objectives. FFA seeks to provide a household transfer to cover the food consumption gap of moderately food insecure households, while improving access to and use of functional natural and physical assets by targeted food-insecure communities, including women, youth and vulnerable groups. Assets aim at restoring food systems, increasing agricultural production, increasing protection against natural shocks and strengthening access to markets and social services.

WFP's resilience and livelihoods programme focuses on improving the sustainable access to food of vulnerable households, building and rehabilitating basic community infrastructure, promoting on-farm and off farm rural livelihoods, and empowering youth and women. In 2020, Food Assistance for Assets activities implemented by WFP focused on building and rehabilitating sustainable community assets prioritized by local communities. Through the implementation of these activities, WFP provides cash transfers to moderately food insecure households during six months implementation period to cover the food consumption gap of moderately food insecure households, while improving access to and use of functional natural and physical assets by targeted food-insecure communities, including women, youth and vulnerable groups per year so that they can build and restore the community assets that are most important to them.

Under this component, WFP implemented activities in 10 districts in Al-Musaymir, Ash Shamayatayn, Az Zuhrah, Bajil, Bani Qais, Khanfir, Lawder, Tuban, Tur Al Baha and Zinjibar.

Community consultations were held in all districts to enroll participants based on the activity's targeting criteria and select the assets that are most important to the community and that are aligned with ERRY's objectives.

Participants worked on a total of 133 assets in 2020. All these assets were completed during the year 2020. These assets are expected to benefit more than 75,000 indirect beneficiaries (users). The breakdown of the assets is as follows:



ERRY II-Created Water tank in Al-Shamayatain, Taiz.

- 34 water harvesting schemes: including the construction of 16 water rehabilitation channels, 4 water tanks creation, 1 water network creations, and the rehabilitation of 3 earth dams, in

addition to rehabilitation of 1 gabion to support water channels, rehabilitation and construction of 6 ponds, rehabilitation of 3 wells. Around 21,000 people will benefit from these assets.

- 70 road rehabilitation and construction projects expected to benefit more than 50,000 people.
- 18 school rehabilitation and construction projects, around 9,000 indirect beneficiaries will use these assets.
- 3 sanitation projects: two collective latrine projects and one sewage system rehabilitation project, which will benefit 1,400 people.
- 3 Health facilities rehabilitation.
- 5 agricultural land protection activities, which around 9,200 people will benefit from these activities.

To facilitate the participation of beneficiaries in activities and support their access to food, WFP transferred around \$2,528,726 to beneficiaries through cash in-hand modality during 2020. Most beneficiaries collected their transfers in designated mobile points near their residence while those who could went directly to the financial service provider's branch in district centers. Each participant received an average of US\$ 100 per month.

WFP implemented these activities with four partners: Islamic Relief Yemen (IRY) in Hodaidah and Care International in Abyan and Lahj, Relief International in Bani Qais in Hajjah and Save the Children (SCI) in Ash Shamayatayn and Az Zuhrah.



50-Meter Road Paved in Al-Shamayatain, Taiz

Ameen's valuable investment

Ameen Mohammed is 39 years old participants from a 10-member household. He is a casual worker who also owns a few goats. He joined FFA activities in Tur Al Baha in October 2019 to rehabilitate a 2 km road. Ameen has saved money since he joined the project and decided to buy a cow. For Ameen, the cow is a source of sustainable income, “ this project helped me to get personal source of money” said Ameen, “now I stopped taking loans for my foods because I have the source of food in my yard.”



He is thankful for the cows production as he knows how to improve livestock productivity to get food secured. “Now the road is in our village facilitating our access to the main road and I am having my cow pregnant to get benefits from the calves on the Eid season”, Ameen said.

Ensuring safe access of girls to primary education

Ahmed Bin Ahmed’s daughter Asma used to travel 3 km every day to attend school. Thanks to FFA interventions, Ahmed and his neighbors worked on three additional classrooms in their village’s school so that all the children in the village can attend school near their homes. The girls there no longer need to travel through the woods for hours under the sun. Ahmed is grateful for the project in his village and is saving the cash assistance to invest in his son’s marriage, as his son is providing food to the family by working on the motorcycle.



Ameen's cow barn

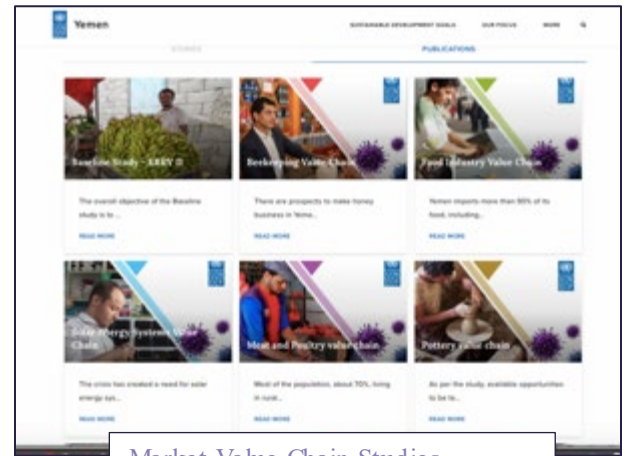
Impact Summary

FFA interventions contributed to the following:

- Improved access to cash, income, and food security of households
- Improved food security and livelihoods
- Improved access to health facilities
- Improved travel and transport to market and to basic services
- Improved environmental management

Emergency employment and small business development

through 3x6 approach: Under the above result, UNDP focused on supporting targeted communities improving access to income through emergency employment and market rehabilitation—the project conducted seven value chain studies to design the livelihood interventions. The studies focused on pottery, fisheries, meat and poultry, solar energy, beekeeping, food processing, textile and handloom. The value chain studies provided the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in the sector and required intervention to pursue.



Market Value Chain Studies

Based on the findings of the value chain studies, UNDP initiated the 3x6 approach interventions. 5,112 individuals, during the reporting period, received emergency employment and access to USD 306,720. Individuals also received a job for ten days with a wage rate of \$6/day. Beneficiaries were selected through a community committee led by the village cooperative council (SFD Tamkeen mechanism). Emergency employment focused on rehabilitating the markets and access infrastructure to the market.

The programme has managed to rehabilitate twenty-seven local markets and associated infrastructure through emergency employment activities. The improvement in the market conditions have been



Rehabilitated Jaar Market in Khanfir

critical and managed to reach more than 100,000 individuals. For example, in Abyan (south), the Jaar Fish Market was handed over to the community and local authority. The fish market has benefitted 15 nearby villages and traders and has improved the storage capacities as well. There are 30,000 individuals connected with this fish market and live in nearby villages. Through

market rehabilitation, the income of small fishers' increased by 30%. Similarly, markets rehabilitated under the project expected to benefit vendors, traders, suppliers and communities.

Mohsen has increased his daily profits thanks to the rehabilitation of the market

Today merchants are celebrating increased sales – sometimes up to 30% per day – as a result of the new clean market. “I am happy to sell my fish in the market. I used to sell 10 per day, but now I sell between 14 – 15,” exclaims Mohsen, a fish merchant working in the Ja’ar central market. With increasing demand for more stalls, the local authorities are also drawing up plans for further development of the space. “We are thankful for the rehabilitation of our local market. Now the people don’t have to suffer and the food they buy is cleaner and more hygienic. Since the rehabilitation, we have managed to bring back wholesalers to the market and we will continue to do so,” says Almansari.



Rehabilitation of Road in Al Turba, Taiz

The emergency employment activities prioritized the prevention measures due to COVID-19. The implementing partner ensured that beneficiaries have the safety gear (boot, helmet, eyeglass and gloves) and COVID-19 protection gear to mitigate the occupational health and safety risks. The north's implementation has been slow due to delays in

approval from the national authorities; however, partners could catch up with the major activities such as emergency employment and business skill training. As the output intended to increase access to income for the targeted beneficiaries, the project has provided income generation opportunities as well as improving access to the market while rehabilitating the markets and access infrastructure.

Activity Result 1.3: Sustainable livelihoods opportunities are created in the post-cash for work phase to support self-employment through entrepreneurship development for vulnerable households and individuals (UNDP, FAO and ILO)

Indicators	Overall Target	Achievement Year I	Achievement Year II	Total Progress	Remarks
# of beneficiaries who received business development and life skills training	9,550	800	5,112	5,912	
# of microbusinesses established and operational after 6 months	4,974	0	1,335	1,335	
# of women, men and youth who have improved access to income, business competency and have improved their livelihood	70%	-	-	-	It will be measured at the endline stage
# of ToTs trained on business training packages (MFB & semiliterate)	125	16	52	68	16 refresher TOT and 52 new TOT
% of beneficiaries who are able to graduate to sustainable livelihoods as a result of post-CfW activities of self-employment and employability	70%	-	-	-	It will be measured at the endline stage

The joint programme ensures complementarities and synergies among PUNOs to maximize the impact of the programme's interventions on the target communities and at the same time enhance the efficiency and sustainability of emergency employment and livelihoods interventions. Post-CfW support includes occupational training, competency-based training and life skills to enable the transition from emergency short-term employment to sustainable livelihoods opportunities. Some of the key activities conducted to achieve this result are highlighted below.

- ILO updated and finalized the content of “I own a small business” training package based on the feedback received from the trainers and the partner institutions in the field. ILO developed an operational manual for the training programme to ensure standardization and to facilitate the institutionalization process to ensure the sustainability of the programme.
- The updated training materials of I Own a Small Business aims to provide basic business management skills to low income Yemeni youth and women with limited literacy include pertinent topics such as life skills, basic financial management skills, conflict management and critical thinking.
- A final refresher training on the “I own a Small Business” training package for semi-literates was held virtually in September 2020. The training aims to share with the trainers the updated and final

training package, in addition, sharing implementation manual includes guidelines for implementing the training, as well as a detailed listing of the responsibilities of each party (Trainers, Consultants, Implementing Partners, and UN Agencies), and various evaluation tools.

- ILO has printed out up to 50 copies of the final Arabic version of the “I own a Small Business” training package to be used in coming training. The package includes two books (trainer guide and implementation guide) with colorful high vision Training boards and tables. All training materials are packing in A2 Bag.
- To expand the numbers of trainers of “I Own a Small Business” , ILO in coordination with UNDP and implementation partners selected up to 85 potential trainers then ILO international consultant has conducted online interviews and selected the final list, which included 52 participants from target governorates.
- Two TOT workshops on “I Own a Small Business” have been conducted for 52 Trainers in Sana’a and Aden. In an effort to move forward with the implementation of activities amidst COVID-19, the ILO conducted those two TOT workshops in a mixed training format, combining pre-recorded sessions, live sessions and working sessions with local trainers support. The international consultant delivered the two workshops virtually with support of two ILO national trainers to assist him locally in each location. This to ensure the quality of the online events, given that the two ILO national trainers are very familiar with the material and the package, and can provide a lot of on the ground support.



Under result 1.3, the focus by UNDP was to support targeted communities building alternative livelihood business and life skills. The objective was to provide the training to cash for work beneficiaries to establish enterprises either with UNDP and partner or by themselves from other resources. The project has followed the 3x6

approach, and all the cash for work beneficiaries have received business skills training. FAF, CARE International, MDF, SDF and OXFAM beneficiaries acquired seven days of training. In total, five thousand one hundred twelve beneficiaries trained this year. The training focused on enhancing the cash management, marketing strategy, value chain and financial risks. In the first three days, an average

of two hours of training was conducted with 30 participants, whereas the rest of the four days focused on developing business proposals. The participants were advised to develop their proposals in seven sectors: food processing, beekeeping, handicrafts, solar energy, pottery, fisheries, and meat and poultry. Participants were also requested to choose the sectors from the above and beyond as per their choice too. The trainers also conducted the pre-and post-training evaluation to assess the training methodology and content and reception among participants.



Picture: Online Business and Skill Development

Implementing partners faced challenges in conducting face to face training due to COVID-19 restricted mobility and threat of virus spread. For mitigating the risk, the project came up with innovative ideas to continue implementing training through online modality wherever access to the internet was possible. The project also faced

challenges regarding the lack of certified trainers and their inability to travel to targeted areas. UNDP advised to hire local trainers, and thus training implementation was possible and conducted with preventive measures. The project followed the ILO training framework and improvised the delivery modality. The progress under the above result is slow due to the sudden impact of the pandemic and, consequently, mobility restriction. As indicated earlier, the project has developed the business continuity plan to mitigate the virus's risks and implement partners have also received it to act accordingly.

UNDP has developed and piloted business to business (B2B) online platform for MSMEs to improve access to the market. The platform's purpose is to integrate the informal markets and MSMEs in creating a broader network to buy and sell local products. Verifone, the private sector, has agreed to run the platform. To complete the B2B process, financial service providers



Business to Business Online Platform

(wallet) and logistics company have also joined the platform to support the business. The platform is expected to connect more than 7000 MSMEs and would be able to provide opportunities to others to use the platform. Due to the connectivity challenges, the platform would initially connect MSMEs located in semi-urban place. The platform has business advisory services, and MSMEs located in rural areas would receive support from the advisors to connect to the platform.

The progress evaluation under the above result has been done through four major data sources and online platforms:

- **DHIS Online Platform²:** the platform under the livelihood component records all the participants and their detail with regards to training. The platform also captures solar energy, local governance and social cohesion initiatives and maintain the database on real time basis.
- **Pre and post evaluation:** the assessment by the trainer provide the real time feedback on the progress and quality of the training.
- **Online/offline training curriculum development:** UNDP along with the existing certified trainers developed the customised version of training curriculum. The developed training module was handy that can be imparted to targeted beneficiaries through innovative approach. Inadequate number of trainers and lack of willingness to travel remote, the online/offline approach worked to reach out more than 3000 individuals to train on time and therefore enabled to establish businesses.
- **Post distribution monitoring:** the monitoring captures the utilization of cash assistance, priority expenditure at household level, level of access to cash distribution points, feedback and complaint with regards to beneficiaries selection, influence on beneficiaries while receiving cash assistance, etc.

Impact Summary

Activities under the Emergency Employment and Livelihood component have led to achieving the following results:

- Improved access to cash, income, and food security of households
- Improved food security and livelihoods
- Improved access to community markets

² <https://erryproject.com/dhis-web-dashboard/#/>

Activity Result 1.4: Sustainable livelihoods opportunities created in the post cash- for-work phase support employability through on-the-job training (ILO)

Indicators	Overall Target	Achievement Year I	Achievement Year II	Total Progress	Remarks
# of trainees with improved employability skills through informal apprenticeship scheme	2,000	590	590	590	Same batch continued in the 2nd year to complete all phases of apprenticeship scheme
% of vulnerable youth/women reporting improved income at least three months after completion of the training	70%	-	-	-	

- Under this activity, ILO applied indirect implementation modality through national implementing partners, who have been selected based on a competitive procurement process. The two selected partners are: 1) Mayar Foundation for Development (MFD) and 2) Ghadaq for Development. MFD has been selected for implementation of the apprenticeship program in Lahj and Abyan, while Ghadaq has been selected to implement in Hajja, Hodieda and Taiz.
- The assignment for MFD is to increase access to apprenticeship program by 320 vulnerable youth in Lahj and Abyan while building the capacity of 160 Master Craftspersons in market demand-driven sectors so as to enhance and facilitate meaningful and sustainable employment opportunities. Similarly, the assignment for Ghadaq is to increase access to apprenticeship program by 320 vulnerable youth in Hajja, Hodieda and Taiz while building capacity of 160 Master Ccraftspersons.
- Although, both IP's started with some preparatory tasks in the first quarter of 2020, but due to COVID-19 outbreak in Yemen, Mayar Foundation, ILO's partner in the south (Lahj and Abyan) stopped and postponed the field project activities as the authorities in Lahj and Abyan closed TEVET institutions and didn't allow any physical training activities to be conducted, as one of the preventive measures introduced by authorities in response to COVID-19 pandemic. In the same time, Ghadaq, ILO's partner in the north, has struggled to get the implementation permit to start the field work in Hajjah and Hoodiada governorates until July 2020.
- As a mitigation to the closure of TEVET institutions due to COVID-19 outbreak, both IPs were requested to propose a response plan for implementation in line with COVID 19 directions.
- According to delay occurred, both IPs requested for an agreement extension until February 2021.

- ILO held induction workshops in Aden and Sanaa with the newly selected implementing partners in order to enhance their capacity to deliver the project outcomes.



Induction workshop in Aden with Mayar for Development (MFD) Foundation. MFD was selected as a local IP to implement apprenticeship component of ERRY II in Lahj and Abyan Governorates of Yemen



Induction workshop for Ghadaq Foundation in Sana'a. Ghadaq Foundation was selected to implement apprenticeship component of ERRY II in Hajjah and Hodeidah governorates of Yemen.

- During the workshops, the partners were inducted on the program objective, expected results, monitoring and reporting. Additionally, detailed implementation plans were jointly developed and agreed on with the IPs.
- Both IPs coordinated with WFP IPs to get the list of beneficiaries who will be involved in the post cash for work and FFA activities.
- The Craftsperson's training materials on learner-centred pedagogy, competency-based training and assessment (CBT/A), and OSH have been updated and translated into English language.
- The beneficiaries for the apprenticeship program have been selected from WFP lists under Food for Asset (FFA) components.
- 320 Master craftsperson have been trained on learning methodologies, CBT/A and OSH under the apprenticeship scheme.
- Although the occupations were selected as a result of a consultation with stakeholders in the field, the selected IP's conducted market assessments to validate the identified occupations in targeted areas before the implementation starts.
- 590 Apprentices class-based training completed for up to 120 Hours in the target governorates that include life skills, financial literacy and theoretical training in the selected occupations.



- All Covid-19 related precautions and protocols are being followed to ensure safe environment for all beneficiaries during activities.
- 50 individuals have been trained to improve their employability skills in solar energy micro-enterprises as part of apprenticeship program implementation.



- On-the-job training at workplaces has completed (up to 300 training hours) for all apprentices in target governorates except Hodeida due to security escalation and delay in getting the authority approval.



- By end of February 2021 all activities for the first batch of apprentices should be completed. At the same time, the preparations are in progress to introduce a new batch of beneficiaries under apprenticeship program for 650 apprentices by March 2021.

Impact Summary

Activities under Skills and Entrepreneurship Development component have resulted in achieving the following:

- Improved vocational capacity of 590 apprentices.
- Improved food security and livelihoods.
- Capacitate 320 Master crafts persons in Occupational Safety and Health,
- Maintain key functions of the vocational training centres at the target governorates and enhance the TEVT capacity to develop CBT curricula.

Activity Result 1.5: Capacity of the private sector is strengthened to contribute to emergency crisis response and job creation (UNDP, ILO):

Indicators	Overall Target	Achievement Year I	Achievement Year II	Total Progress	Remarks
# of individuals from private sector and government institutions at district and governorate level build their capacity to develop and implement participatory business continuity planning	90	15			
# of SME networks supported by the program reporting improvement in their capacity	4 networks	0	0		
# of households provided with small-scale productive assets and training on marketing	1,000 (40% female-headed HHs)	0			

In August 2020, ILO conducted an online introductory course on “business continuity planning and resilience” for 15 individuals from private sector and government institutions at district and governorate level. Due to COVID-19 outbreak, ILO decided to conduct the workshop training online. The selection of participants has been done in coordination with Chambers of Commerce in the targeted governorates including Sana’a and Aden. The workshop introduced the concept and explain how support can be extend to SMEs facing challenges in difficult crises/pandemic times to maintain their operations, use their working capital efficiently and protect/retain their employees. Upon successful completion, the participating consultants/trainers would have understood the concept of

Business Continuity and Resilience and acquired a number of techniques to help entrepreneurs/SME owners and managers anticipate, identify, assess, and prepare responses to crises that threaten not only their financial status but also the sustainability and survival of their businesses.

Output 2: Vulnerable communities benefit from solar energy solutions for sustainable livelihoods opportunities and enhanced social service delivery

The output has contributed to resuming the access to energy in public institutions and facilities and has set the platform for decentralized access to energy. The component targets health centres, schools, public offices, water and irrigation system and productive assets. The ongoing ERRY II intervention has already installed 40 solar off-grid system and 36 solar vaccine refrigerators for health centres mostly in the southern target governorates. Procurement of 20 solar off-grid system is ongoing. In addition, 36 solar vaccine refrigerators and 60 solar off-grid system is underway for the northern targeted governorates is ongoing. Though the above procurement has targeted range of facilities in health, education and public offices and all of them can diverted to health centers in the targeted districts to strengthen the access to energy services for the health systems for front line works during the initial stage of COVID response. Apart from the service delivery support under the solar energy component, the success of microgrid approach can be scale up for income generation activities. The solar component has the provision for solar drinking water and the project can offer solar water desalination support to hospitals and health centers located in the targeted coastal areas such as Lahj and Hodeidah.

Indicators	Overall Target	Achievement Year I	Achievement Year II	Total Progress	Remarks
# of public institution facilities (health, education and district offices) supported with solar systems	182	61	25	86	
# of community productive assets (MSME) supported through introduction of solar energy	41	0	0	0	The activity is in synergy of FAO to provide solar system for productive assets to improve income. FAO is yet to provide the list of productive assets to be solarized.
# of HHs supported through introduction of solar energy (disaggregated by female-headed households)	11,000	0	0	0	Local production business model has been adopted. Private sectors brought it to support MSMEs to assemble the solar solution with the technical support of national organization. Private sector has mobilized resources approximately \$120,000 from National Fund for SME and has procured the raw material. The MSMEs are being trained to assemble the solar solution. The final product would be soon available in the local market for implementing partner to purchase and distribute soon.
# and % of trained and certified women and youth in solar system installation who have adopted solar innovation	700 trainees (60%)	0	402	402	402 community solar technicians were trained on operation and maintenance of solar system
% of targeted public institution facilities (health, schools and district offices) and systems (water) have resumed and improved critical services	70%	-	-	-	
# of solar micro-enterprises established (disaggregated by gender)	400	0	60	60	
# of trainees reporting improvement in their employability skills in solar energy micro-enterprises	250	0	50	50	
% of targeted MSME have benefitted through solar energy solutions	70%				
% of solar entrepreneurs who are able to access financial institutions and have expanded their businesses for profit	20%				

Activity Result 2.1 Energy resilience of key basic services (schools, health facilities, water, local administration offices) strengthened through improved access to reliable alternative sources of energy

Under the above result, there are six major activities implemented by the programme as follows:

1. Install solar energy systems for social services to improve service delivery;
2. Install solar energy for vulnerable households;
3. Develop solar energy solutions for productive assets and community production facilities to reinforce livelihood resilience of vulnerable rural communities;
4. Capacity building and awareness training of communities on solar applications and use of solar energy, and for engagement of youth and women in community and district;
5. Promote solar microbusiness, business connection and networking among rural and urban dealers' communities, including youth and women;
6. Enhance solar energy capacity building, including vocational training on solar energy application uses, specifications design, installation and maintenance through microbusiness associations and private sector.

UNDP has provided off-grid solar systems to build energy resilience for social services. The provision includes solar vaccine refrigerators for health centres. An energy needs assessment was done on 82



Solar Vaccine Refrigerator



Solar System for Health Unit

health, educational, and public office facilities to install the solar systems. Public facilities identified based on the need and criteria assessment and close consultations with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and district authorities and relevant departments at the governorate and district level. UNDP under ERRY I have developed energy assessment tools for health, education, WASH, agriculture and public offices and the assessment applied the above tools to assess the energy gap.

For the fair and transparent selection of public facilities for the nomination, the project followed solar operational guideline and procedures. Through its implementing partners, UNDP provided the nomination forms to the relevant department at the governorate and district level and community. The community resilience plan (CRP) was referred by the district and sub-district representatives in shortlisting the facilities. The shortlisted facilities were visited by the solar engineers recruited by the implementing partners to conduct the technical assessments. The assessment verified facilities in terms of security, safety aspects, energy audit and availability of other electricity sources, and the environmental, geographical, social and technical conditions at the selected facilities. A final list of eighty-six facilities generated by applying selection criteria and recommendations from the district and governorate level's local authority, health, and education offices. Through LTA, off-grid solar systems were procured and installed in schools, health centres and district. The solar system has an inbuilt Global Positioning System (GPS) tracker to monitor the input and output on a real-time basis, and in case of any breakdown, the support can be reached on time. In total, approximately 150,000 individuals have benefitted in three governorates: Abyan, Lahj and Ash Shamayatain, with the installation of solar system facilities.



Solar System Supports Laboratory

Considering the lessons learned from ERRY I, the project has decided to promote local assembled solar solutions by building SMEs' capacity on the assembly of Pico solutions under the private sector engagement modality to roll out the initiative in the targeted areas ERRY II project. In this regard, UNDP collaborated with three private sector companies and a third-part consultancy firm to develop a Low-Cost Model for the household solution, which can be affordable by average Yemenis. UNDP developed the initiative and a business model that can address the above and create market demand to attract the private sector. The private sectors, POWER ON, AL QUIRA, and MFD, showed interest in engaging in the business model through our MSMEs during the consultation meeting. MFD took a lead role in engaging with the private sector through developing MoU with them. UNDP has contracted MFD under the responsible party to deliver on the solar lantern prototype's local production.

The development of solar solutions for productive assets and communities production facilities is to build synergy with FAO. But due to lack of permission and approval, the joint activities were delayed.

UNDP expects to receive a list of productive assets, need solarization. Subsequently, an energy gap assessment needs to be conducted to develop the specification and technical requirements.

For the capacity building and awareness training on solar application and solar energy use, the activity is linked with the solar lantern initiative, which would cover 11,000 households. Since solar lantern production is still not completed, the capacity building and awareness activities are yet to take off. The intervention expects to assemble eleven thousand lanterns.

Activity Result 2.2 Women and youth play an active role in the provision of solar energy in their communities through solar microenterprises (UNDP, ILO)

In terms of promoting solar microbusiness, business connection and networking among rural and urban dealers' communities, including youth and women, the activities are the preparatory stage. The Project has identified the target beneficiaries and received the skill-building training to establish microbusinesses. On the other hand, to create network among rural and urban dealers and agencies in Yemen, UNDP has developed an online platform (www.solarinventar.info). UNDP partnered with Musanadah Foundation for Development (MFD) and GIZ and has completed the data collection stage of information related to solar intervention in 10 governorates (Sana'a, Hajjah, Hodeida, Taiz, Abyan, Lahj, Aden, Ibb, Dhamar, Amran). Data from different sources such as clusters, Solar Working Group (SWG), private sector, and Yemen Microfinance Network (YMN) were collected and uploaded. A virtual workshop has been organized on 13th May 2020 with all Solar Working Group members and the leading key players in the field of solar energy in Yemen. The workshop's purpose was to present the findings and the raw data and hear from solar working group members their feedback. Waste to energy and water desalination pilot initiatives promotes microbusiness, business connection, and networking. With the funding support from SDG climate initiative, the waste to energy initiative is at the final stage of installation in Lahj, whereas in Al Hodeidah, the procurement process has begun. For the water desalination initiative, the evaluation process for the request for proposal is going on and it is expected to be launched by the third week of March in Al Hodeidah. UNDP is also developing the wind and solar hybrid energy microbusiness solution to support the affected communities.

Lastly, for solar energy capacity building, including vocational training on solar energy application uses, four-hundred two community technicians were trained on specific design, installation and maintenance by the implementing partners. For the essential operation and maintenance toolkit to resume livelihoods and support the solar system at the district and sub-district levels, community

technicians received training and kits. The community technicians would be linked with business to the online business platform to provide their accessibility to the small businesses.

The progress of solar energy was evaluated based on couple of key factors:

- a) **Installation of GPS:** all facilities transmit the real time data and breakdown can easily identified.
- b) **Solar inventar online platform:** The system provides the networking, assessment, community of practice tools for agencies, private sectors and dealers to develop solar programming in Yemen. The regional center for energy access and energy efficiency (RECREE) has also joined the effort and this demonstrates the solar programming achievement in building networking.
- c) **Promotion of local production of prototypes:** the solar lantern initiatives while engaging private sector, technical organization and MSMEs, highlights that, the demand and supply in the areas of solar prototypes can be met and eventually it would support the local economy where vulnerable groups can also be part of the value chain.

ILO has contributed to the support of women and youth to play an active role in the provision of solar energy in their communities through solar microenterprises by carrying out the following activities:

- Identifying seven priority occupations that have higher chances of creating job opportunities based on the new and emerging youth and women-friendly solar technology occupations. The developed Competency-based Training (CBT) curricula materials are related to the following occupations:
 - Solar system installation and maintenance (three training programs in: small / home systems, advance and commercial systems, and solar systems for water pumps);
 - Handcrafts production including three sub-occupations: crochet, palm products, and handloom fabrication “Maawiz”;
 - Air conditions maintenance.
- The development of CBT materials has been done in consultation with the private sector as well as in coordination with TEVET ministry and Yemeni federation for chamber of commerce FYCCI. This includes the selection the CBT development team members from private sector and TEVET institutions. Seven CBT curricula were developed in high market demand sectors which are potential for job creation. Each CBT curriculum includes the following documents:
 - Curriculum framework;
 - CBT trainee book and Trainer Guide.

Although the defining competencies in each occupation were validated with market and skills persons before developing the training materials but due to COVID-19 outbreak, the project team could not

conduct validation workshop for final documents; however, it will be part of implementation in the field.

- The consultation committee, consisting of the deputy of TEVET and the executive director of FYCCI located in Sana'a, has approved the developed materials.
- ILO skills specialist has some comments, which would mainly help to clarify the methodology that would be used in the implementation of such curricula in apprenticeship programs. Accordingly, the team leader of development team is in the process of incorporating ILO comments and updating and finalizing the documents.

Impact Summary

- Improved access to health facilities and public institutions
- Improved access to water
- Improved livelihood opportunities through solar microbusinesses

Output 3: Communities and local authorities have enhanced capacities to respond to conflict and gender sensitive priorities needs

The output has contributed in mobilizing communities, key leaders and local authorities in addressing the basic services issues through participatory approach. The local governance component at the community level targets the rehabilitation of public services by supporting communities to rebuild or construct schools, health centers, community infrastructures, water networks etc. This is where the ERRY II is very much relevant when it comes to local governance and improving the basic services. During ERRY I, UNDP with the support of SFD managed to construct more than 6 health centers in the targeted areas and those would support communities in the remote rural areas. ERRY II through the small-scale block grants at the community level (45 grants each with \$20,000) can easily support the health center in ramping up the facilities such as quarantine spaces, provision of additional beds, disinfection tunnels, handwashing stations and repair of water systems.

ERRY II also has district level interventions under local governance as a part of recovery projects. There are 8 districts under ERRY II with a budget of \$80,000 each and those can be utilized revamping and strengthening the health centre further with critical facilities as mentioned above. The social cohesion component also has the element of improving public services by mitigating the conflict at the local level. The block grant of the social cohesion component can be further support responding COVID to support health centres.

Activity Result 3.1: Water User Associations (WUA) established (FAO)

An assessment to identify potential areas for irrigation was conducted. 28 Water Users' Association / Water Users' Groups (WAUs/WUGs) have been selected in four governorates. However, the assessment of the type of equipment to be provided to the WUAs is yet to be completed.

Activity Result 3.2: Community-based organizations have enhanced capacities to develop conflict- and gender- sensitive community resilience plans reflecting community priority needs and actions (UNDP)

Indicators	Overall Target	Achievement Year I	Achievement Year II	Total Progress	Remarks
# of insider mediators recruited and trained to facilitate peaceful conflict resolution (disaggregated by gender)	120 IMs (30% women)	48	92	140	IMs were trained on mediation, community dialogues and conflict resolution
# of gender-sensitive conflict analysis conducted	7 by 2022	3	4	7	7 conflict scans were conducted identifying local conflict related to public services
# of SDCs established and operational	49	46	11	57	The SDC members are from the cluster of villages
# of community resilience plans developed (and operationalized) at sub-district level	49	46	11	57	The priorities were identified to be implemented with the support of block grant
# of selected priority interventions identified under the community resilience plans which have been implemented (disaggregated by village and sub-district)	135 and 49 respectively	23	32 subdistrict 112 village level	144	
# of conflict-mitigating initiatives supported	31	0	3	3	These initiatives were implemented based on conflict scan & community dialogues
% of target communities with improved access to basic services due to conflict mitigating interventions	70%	-	-		Yet to be measured at endline stage
% target communities have enhanced service delivery support through participatory approach	70%	-	-		Yet to be measured at endline stage
# of DMTs reactivated to restore public service delivery	8	7	1	8	The team is representative by local authority, local council and community based organizations
# of local authority members trained on planning and development	200	150	50	200	DMTs members were trained on either planning or tenders and projects implementation
# of targeted local authorities that are able to revitalize service delivery by implementing and operationalizing recovery plans	8	0	8	8	8 districts already developed their recovery plans and identified and selected the priorities of interventions to be implemented with ERRY funding

The result has six major activities, most of which have been achieved by UNDP project team in 2020. The local governance and social cohesion component intervention started much before livelihoods and solar energy. The result-oriented monitoring (ROM) conducted by the EU in 2017 highlighted the importance of community governance and social cohesion intervention to build synergies with other components. Considering ROM's feedback and findings, ERRY II started prioritizing the governance and social cohesion intervention to organize the community's needs (humanitarian and development) through resilience planning and budgeting. The achievement of most of the target under this result is due to the prioritization of intervention.

The intervention has supported in identifying 104 insider mediators who play the role of mobilizing communities to identify local conflicts. The mediators bring parties of the conflict together through community dialogues and identify conflict resolution to implement. The identified mediator would also support and facilitate the development of a community resilience plan. Among the 104 mediators, 45% of them are women and have a high community acceptance.

The insider mediators have facilitated seven conflict scan analysis and have identified the local issues of social tension among communities or within the community. The conflict scan in seven districts has identified thirty-four pressing issues that could become a conflict in the future. The majority of the issues are related to access to public services and infrastructure, such as not enough school rooms to accommodate eligible children despite their enrolment, conflict over the creation of significant water network, rehabilitation and restoration of health unit and sewage system. The conflict scan also identifies the driver of the conflict and parties to it. Implementing SEARCH and Enzaj Foundation trained the insider mediators on mediation, community dialogues, and conflict scanning during quarters two and three.

Once the insider mediator identifies the conflict, the next step is to establish community committees represented by conflict parties, including community institutions. Each community committee has a maximum of ten members designated by the parties to the conflict. The committee established to oversee the conflict and propose resolution with consensus building at the district level. The primary roles and responsibilities of these committees are to facilitate community dialogues. The dialogue launched in Abyan- Khanfer- on the 31st of October 2020 targeted about 167 participants (64 females) who participated effectively in discussing community conflicts related to health, education, water, sanitation, and roads issues. Participants worked collaboratively with local council members and community members to address these issues and finalize alternative solutions to resolve these

conflicts. Another community dialogue session was launched in Abyan- Sarar district between the 19th and 31st of Dec 2020 and targeted 104 participants, including 40 female participants representing different sectors such as local authorities, youth movements, and community leaders. The sessions



Community Dialogue Session in Progress

discussed various issues related to health, water, sanitation, electricity, and education. In two districts of Hajjah (Abbs and Bani Qais), implementing partner in quarter two conducted seven community dialogues where eighty-one local communities (15 women and 58 men) participated in the event to identify conflict resolution. Similarly, in Al Zuhra

district of Hodeidah, six community dialogues were conducted and represented by eighty-six individuals from targeted communities (18 women and 68 men).

UNDP Implementing Partner, Search for Common Ground provided the first round of gender-sensitive training to ERRY II consortium partners. The training was a 10-hour course from 11th - 21st May covering the following modules: (i) defining the main gender concepts; (ii) gender analysis; (iii) gender objectives; (iv) gender outputs; and (v) gender-sensitive M&E. The training was attended by 4 out of the ten nominated consortium partner representatives.

Fifty-seven sub-district committees (SDC) established under local governance initiatives. These committees would be responsible for facilitating local capacity building and community resilience plans (CRP). The committee has a reservation of 50% of women who participate in every CRP development step. The role of men and women also has a significant influence on the selection of priority problems. The SDC is also a link between district authorities and communities and facilitates public services rehabilitation. There are twenty members in each committee, and in total, 285 members (22% of women) represents 57 sub-districts. The SDC was provided training on planning, budgeting and how to develop the community resilience plan.

The communities developed Fifty-seven community resilience plans (CRP) at the sub-district level in a participatory and consultative manner. The CRP captures community profile and needs assessment, public services status, the impact of crisis/conflict on assets and capitals, coping and adaptation strategy, stakeholders analysis, summary of community needs, prioritized problems, and implementation arrangements. The CRP documents shared with implementing partners and participating UN agencies in the joint programme for their reference and building synergies. CRP also provides opportunities for implementing partners and UN agencies to consider it as baseline information to gauge community needs and priorities.

As a result of CRP development, one hundred forty-four basic service priority interventions identified and subsequently, block grants provided to implement the solution as prioritized in the CRP.



The initiatives were focused on improving access to public services such as health, water, education, and wash and (re)building community assets. The block grants have rehabilitated classrooms (68), health facilities (15), a water-network (25), six community access roads. In Abs district (Hajjah governorate), three health facilities were built and are now functioning and providing services to the communities. Under conflict resolution, three initiatives were implemented in Kanfer (Abyan governorate) and Bani Qais (Hajjah). In Kanfer, lack of a critical facility (maternity room) in the health unit was causing social tension among communities, whereas in Bani Qais, lack of access to community roads and drinking water were the major cause of local conflict.



Activity Result 3.3: Local authorities are better able to plan, monitor and coordinate gender- and conflict-sensitive resilience and recovery priorities and respond at the district level through a participatory approach

Under the above results, there are four major activities; re-activate the district management team, provide technical capacity building to local authorities to plan and implement recovery plans, develop a district recovery plan, and organize events with communities and local authorities to showcase priority interventions.

Following the interventions, eight district management teams (DMTs) were activities in eight targeted districts. The DMT is composed of all relevant executive agencies such as education, health, cleaning fund, water, public works, local administration and local council. The DMT also includes a representative from community-based organizations and the private sector to make the representation inclusive. Following the constitution of DMT, two hundred local authorities members were trained on planning, budgeting, and implementing recovery initiatives. The training also included tender management and project implementation.

DMTs developed eight district recovery plans. The recovery plan includes public service need assessment, adaptation mechanism, recovery intervention priorities in each sector and expected results. With ERRY II funding, each district has selected top priority in the recovery plans to be implemented. Five out of eight districts recovery projects have been advertised for public tender, and the rest are in the preparation stage.

The progress under the above result is on-track. The progress evaluation under the above result has been done through KAP (Knowledge, Attitude and Practice) survey on quarterly basis. The survey collected thirty-nine random samples (women and men) to understand whether they know about the SDC, community resilience plan, and block grants' help in improving the basic services or not? 91% male sample has responded that they understand the role of SDC, and it offers the opportunity to participate in the decision-making process at local, whereas it is 81% in the case of female samples. In terms of community perception of the intervention's impact, 83% of male representative responded that the access to basic services has improved after implementing the sub-district block grant, where 96% female sample gave positive feedback that the initiative has benefited everyone in the community.

3.2 Synergies among PUNOs:

Collaboration and synergies among the participating agencies is strengthened during the second phase of ERRY in order to maximize the impact of the interventions on the target communities.

3.3 Lessons learned:

- Despite mobility challenges to access the target location and individuals due to COVID-19, the project achieved the virtual medium to conduct the online training on business and skill development with quality control.
- With preventive measures, livelihoods, solar, local governance and social cohesion planned activities can also continue in COVID-19 and beyond.
- The pandemic has provided opportunities for the vulnerable communities to rebuild the local economy and institutions by promoting local solutions and innovation to respond to the crisis.
- Local capacities building can improve the confidence of duty bearers and communities to enhance the access to public services;
- Conflict mitigation and grassroots peace building on natural resources can help intact social cohesion among communities;
- Livelihood improvement in humanitarian and development crisis context need to strengthen value chain to support the circular economy which allows vulnerable group to participate and access market infrastructure;
- Green economy approach would enhance and stipulate income and service delivery to mitigate the future problems of hazard/public health/environment.

Implementation of the programme's components is on track, thanks to the following factors that contributed to the attainment of the programme's intended results:

- The programme has capitalized on ERRY I where the design of ERRY II joint programme was premised on the lessons learned and the achievements in ERRY Phase I. ERRYII continues to build on the same interventions of phase one with additional innovative interventions like coffee value chains and post cash-for-work related interventions.
- Under the leadership of the JCU, the PUNOs conduct regular joint implementation planning, monitoring and reporting. The joint actions have helped build synergy in implementation and achievement of results in terms of geographic and beneficiaries' targeting and communicating programme results to wider public.

- The programme activities are implemented through a range of local, national, and international IPs selected through a competitive bidding process. Such implementation modality has been crucial in overcoming the inhibiting issues. Implementing partners in the north received the implementation permits only in April and some in June 2020 after several months of negotiations with the authorities.
- The timely release of funds by donors, which greatly aided planning and timely procurement and prepositioning of inputs and equipment for distribution.
- Collaborative partnership with government institutions like Ministry of Agriculture, TEVET, etc. on technical matters and backstopping to IPs in implementation of programme activities ensures achievement of high-quality results. The partnership has been critical in supporting implementation of ERRY II actions in target areas.
- UNDP has a partnership review approach that takes place every quarter. The review helps in accelerating the delivery. The programme team also closely monitors delivery progress through monthly meetings, bimonthly reporting, monitoring the information management system, spot checks, reviewing financial and procurement compliance practices, etc. are some of the aiding factors that would continue to be promoted.

3.4 Other Activities Carried out during the Reporting Period:

- **Sida Mission:** In January 2020, a mission to Yemen was conducted by the Swedish International Development Agency. A meeting was arranged in Sana'a and attended by the four participating UN agencies and their IPs in the north. The meeting was held for the purpose of providing an update on the programme's progress and the challenges faced. Ingrid, a senior program manager at Sida has talked about the importance of ERRY programme in strengthening the resilience of the people of Yemen through the creation of sustainable livelihoods and she emphasized that development programs are an important part of the humanitarian response in the times of crisis. Then the IPs took part in giving more updates about the different activities implemented under ERRY II various components and they expressed their concern regarding the delay of issuing permits by authorities in the north, which is the main challenge they are currently facing.



Ingrid Sandstrom explaining Sida's interest in contributing to livelihood and food security programmes in Yemen during her meeting with ERRY II PUNOs and IPs - Sana'a, Yemen.




- **Steering Committee Meeting:** On 14 October 2020, the joint programme organized the steering committee meeting which was held virtually due to COVID-19 restrictions. The meeting was attended by the government counterparts, represented by the Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, the donors: the European Union Delegation to Yemen and Sida, the four UN agencies Deputy Country Directors and ERRY II project management team. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss ERRY II implementation achievements, challenges & collective solutions to address them, as well as to seek approval of the annual work plan. The programme team indicated that it was not easy to implement the activities in 2020 due to delays of signing permits, conflict escalation, and on top of that COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, but despite these challenges, the team moved on activities implementation and made achievements presented to the meeting participants.
- **Coordination Strengthened:**
 - Monthly technical meetings of UN technical team were held. The overall purpose is to improve smooth coordination between agencies, to increase synergies, to get regular updates, to provide support, and to address challenges and formulate decisions.
 - Throughout the year, at the sub-national level technical coordination meetings were conducted on monthly basis and attended by focal points from PUNOs and their IPs. The overall purpose was to get regular updates from IPs, improve smooth coordination between agencies, increase synergies, provide support and address challenges. Some of the major challenges included: COVID-19 pandemic, heavy floodings towards the end of the first quarter of the year, coordination with local authorities, and security inaccessibility in Abyan governorate from time to time. The COVID-19 challenges were addressed by conducting virtual meetings and shifting to online training classes along with some precautionary measures in the field such as wearing masks, practicing social distancing, installing hand sanitization stations. To address the torrential rains challenges, which triggered major heavy floodings damaging the road that had been rehabilitated as part of the cash for work activities, Care International, for example, contracted skilled labor to rehabilitate this dilapidated road. Also, the JCU sub-national coordinator in the South attended several meetings with MOPIC officials and local authorities to sort out coordination challenges. IPs, such as MFD & Care International, who had interventions in Abyan governorate, especially in Lawder, made sure to hire their project staff from the citizens of the same district to overcome the issue of inaccessibility to some villages there during times of conflict and instability in the governorate.
 - The programme also participated in the regular coordination meetings organized by Food Security and Agriculture Cluster.

4. CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

4.1 Gender results

Gender and non-discrimination modality applied in all project components by actively ensuring women's maximum participation in the programme's activities and enabling women to take full advantage of training and services. Throughout phase two, the programme promoted women's full participation to ensure that their needs are addressed adequately at all stages of programme implementation. The programme seeks to gather information from women as well as men. The targeting among men and women was to the greatest extent possible equal for all interventions. Particularly important considering the challenge that women's appearance in public is restricted, especially in some of the target areas like Lahj, but ensuring women's and men's specific needs are properly addressed.

After the conflict, many households have lost their income source, and more challenges have occurred in providing basic daily needs. The gender roles in the target areas may differ in accepting women's participation and access to microbusiness work. Through the programme, both men and women found space to engage in the programme activities. Gender inequality and the specific barriers faced by Yemeni women and girls in achieving their full potential have long recognized. Below are the gender inclusion measures that the programme has applied to ensure it reaches the gender marker two benchmarks.

-  **Targeting:** The programme ensured inclusion of women and girls at all stages of implementation as well as assessments and consultation activities. For UNDP, more than 40% of targeted beneficiaries were women in all of its components to ensure that both men and women get equal opportunities to receive the programme's support. In the case of local governance, the targeting is close to 22%. Under the Agriculture Value Chain component, women constitute over 50% of the target beneficiaries; and the target group of the dairy processing activity is 100% women. In the FFA component, although, women constituted around 18% of the total participants in the FFA activities, more than 50% of the household's members who benefited from the cash transfers and using the community assets were women.
-  **Budgeting:** all the project RPAs have allocated between 2%-3% budget for the capacity building on gender mainstreaming.
-  **Implementation design:** The components' interventions are participatory and decided by women and men. For example, the cash assistance intervention of UNDP is not designed typically for civil

work but based on consensus. If any gender opposes the idea of market rehabilitation, the alternative cash for work can be designed to suit both the gender.

- ✚ **Gender monitoring:** The programme data are disaggregated by gender. The developed information management system (MIS) has the gender-disaggregated classification. Also, UNDP has conducted the micronarrative where the gender impact is being monitored at three stages; baseline, midline, and end line. The micronarrative captures the effects of the programme on women and men in terms of microstory. Longitudinal survey and KAP survey, and quarterly reports are the essential tools to do gender monitoring.
- ✚ **Knowledge management:** UNDP has produced knowledge management products to document the projects' impact on women and men. Baseline study, value chain analysis, community resilience plan, micronarrative baseline, longitudinal survey, and KAP survey are the key products. Besides, the programme also produces stories to ensure process documentation and knowledge management.
- ✚ **Project management team:** ERRY II team has managed to promote gender inclusion in the programme activities and the team, where women in the team serve in a range of capacities.

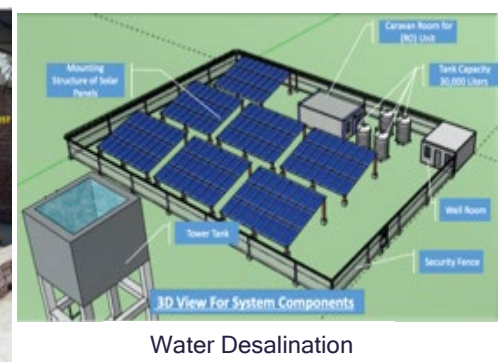
1.2 Partnerships

There is a range of collaboration; inter/cross units, other UN agencies, CSOs and private sector. There are ten responsible parties agreements with local, national and international CSOs. The project closely works with five key private sectors through the specialized agencies' support for the local production of solar prototype, waste to energy, and e-commerce. The activities of our partners and collaboration have a direct impact on our project results. The partnership supports the implementation of project activities in achieving the results. The Implementing partners of UNDP have required capacities to deliver the project; however, most of them, especially local and national organizations, need handholding support in financial and contract management. Some of the national partners have recently developed the enterprise resource planning (ERP) system for better financial management; however, it remains key to continue providing handholding support. As the project progresses to the third and final year of implementation, there are new partnerships that the project has found value to the project. The proposed partnership with a telecommunication company to manage the e-commerce platform, private sector, MFIs and partnership with banks to develop the credit risk protection mechanism is a new area to support Yemen's economic and green economy.

1.3 Environmental Considerations

The planning and implementation of the programme has taken environmental considerations to protect and preserve the environment in sustainable manner. Below are some of the examples and explanation:

- Implementation design:** Some of the programme's components have been designed to preserve the natural and environmental resources. Under livelihood, the cash for work activities implemented by UNDP focused on rehabilitating the market while using the debris instead of dumping it in a landfill. The promotion of solar systems for public services such as schools, health centres, and local offices has been the most robust communicator of environmental consideration while reducing CO2 emissions. The block grants under local governance and social cohesion components have ensured natural resources exploitation while rehabilitating the community assets and infrastructures such as water and access roads. The implementing partners have signed the social and environmental standards (SES) checklist to adhere to UNDP's policy and practices. In addition, some FFA activities implemented by WFP aim at building community assets, such as gabions and sand walls, to regulate the exit of water and prevent the erosion of agricultural lands; and protect villages from the flooding of rainwater.
- The solar component under ERRY II** has focused on improving access to renewable solar energy, thereby reducing competition over scarce natural resources, which has been among the causes of local conflicts. This component's environmental sustainability activities are aligned with the EU Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) operational programme and its strategies.



It corresponds to the Environment and Climate Change strategic area of the GPGC, as it supports the transition towards an inclusive green economy and the mainstreaming of environmental sustainability, climate change and disaster risk reduction initiatives³.

- Innovation, adaptation and mitigation:** UNDP is currently piloting Waste, Water, Wind, Work and Women (5Ws) using renewable energy application and solutions. The waste to energy initiative

³ European Commission, Programming Thematic Programmes and Instruments, Programme on Global Public Goods and Challenges 2014-2020: Multi-Annual Indicative Programme 2014-2017, p.37, https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/mip-gpgc-2014-2017-annex_en.pdf

tackles the looming problem of methane and carbon emissions by promoting to build alternative energy solutions and job security. Initiative with regards to water desalination promotes the sustainable utilization of groundwater and how to recycle the saline into sweet drinking water. Yemen has a huge potential for wind energy, and the project is piloting solar and wind energy application to generate green and clean energy for commercial application. Work and women are at the centre of innovation and adaptation. Provision of income generation and empowering women has been the key focus of the above pilots.

- **Hydroponic solutions soilless farming and water conservation:**

Another project UNDP is also piloting is the hydroponic solutions to promote microbusinesses and subsistence farming. The demand for exotic leafy and vegetables are high in Yemen, and therefore, hydroponic can tackle both water conservation and soil preservation to improve vegetation and forest covers.



Hydroponic unit

- **Biodegradable solutions:** ERRY II has focused on intervening in environmental protection through



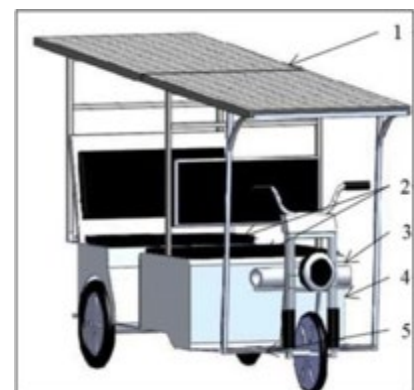
Biodegradable Hydraulic Machine

the microbusiness approach. Mechatronic engineers (youths) have been associated with the project to provide local solutions. The engineers have been manufacturing hydraulic machine to produce biodegradable plates and cups using tree leaves. Engineers are also working to develop edible spoon (wheat flour and jaggery). The above interventions would

support reducing the burden of plastics in the environment. The biodegradable solutions are being developed as a business model so that MSMEs can continue to generate sustainable income and protect the environment and nature.

- **Solar tuk-tuk solutions:** The mechatronic engineers have also working to develop local solar tuk-

tuk. Transportation in Yemen has been the key challenge for vulnerable communities due to the lack of affordability and communication availability. The idea is to develop local tuk-tuk and engage the private sector to use the business model to produce vehicle at scale. The solar tuk-tuk has a range of consumers and clients; farmers, traders, local transport owners, hospital/health centres (for a local ambulance) etc. The solar tuk-tuk manufacturing and production can be done at scale once the



Solar Tuk Tuk Design

engineers design the prototype. The business model is based on a similar solar lantern prototype where skilled and trained MSMEs can assemble the tuk-tuk, and the private sector can provide the raw material.

4.4 COVID-19 response:

As the novel coronavirus spread across the world, including in Yemen, the joint programme took precautionary measures, such as the distribution of masks, water storage and sanitisers, to support beneficiaries in protecting their livelihoods while preventing the risk of infection from the virus. WFP completed the Food assistance for training (FFT) activities remotely through printed lessons and follow up by phone and WhatsApp. New FFT activities could not be started as training centers and schools remained closed. Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) activities had to be redesigned to ensure that not more than 10 people are working on the same asset at the same time. Supervisory capacity was increased to verify the respect of physical distancing at work sites and the use of face masks. Cash distribution processes were revised to comply with COVID-19 prevention measures. Programmes were used as a platform to spread awareness about COVID-19 and its prevention. New opportunities were also identified for participants in sewing classes so that they can sew home-made face masks for their households and community.

Some of the major preparedness activities that were carried out by FAO in response to the immediate risk of corona virus were distributing 5,000 leaflets and posters that provide guidance, key messages, and considerations for engaging farmers and their family members, as well as community members in promoting safe and healthy lives; in addition, around 2,000 handwashing kits were distributed to beneficiaries of feed block & wheat bran, and FFSS trainees in the Southern governorates, and beneficiaries of dairy equipment in the Northern governorates. Each kit contains (10 pcs gloves, 12 pcs of solid soap, a sanitizer, and 10 pcs masks).

Due to COVID-19 outbreak, all training centers related to ERRY II training activities had to suspend their operations as authorities in North and South started imposing restrictions in response to the outbreak. ILO prepared the response plan and shared it with the implementing partners to restart the training activities and impart the Apprenticeship training to the beneficiaries in a safe and healthy environment.

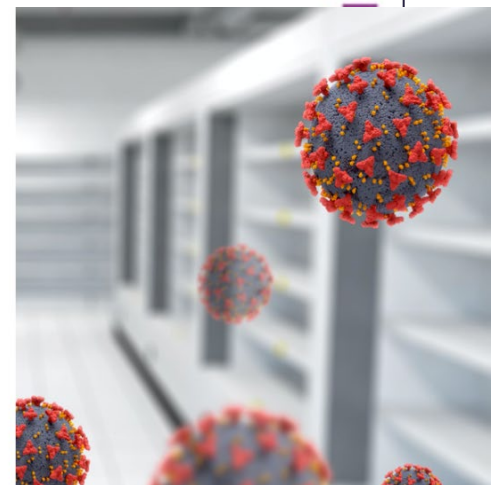
Activities carried out by ILO include updating the response plan based on the current situation, coordinate with IPs to include the response plan in their implementation workplan, keep analyzing and assessing the health situation; monitor and measure the impact of the response plan in the targeted areas, coordinate with IPs and local authorities to provide them with required awareness printouts,

which are also provided in apprenticeship implementation activities such as TEVET institutions for classes-based training and on job trainings at workshops. ILO has also procured and disseminated PPEs/ COVID-19 supplies kits: face masks, disinfectants and laser thermometer.

ILO applied a number of preventive measures while delivering the activities such as reducing the number of trainees in the training areas; creating a safe zone by having a medical-experienced staff measure the body temperature of the attendees at the entrance of the training place; notifying the sick apprentices, trainers and other staff to stay home; enforcing regular hand washing with safe water and soap, alcohol rub/hand sanitizer or chlorine solution and, at a minimum, daily disinfection and cleaning of establishments surfaces at identified training premises; provide water, sanitation and waste management at the training facilities and follow environmental cleaning and decontamination procedures; promoting social distancing and reducing the face-to-face contacts among the trainers and trainees; disinfecting all vehicles; displaying posters that promote handwashing methods.

For UNDP, a business continuity plan (BCP) was developed upon the arrival of COVID-19 in April, which was shared with donors and implementing partners. The objectives of the BCP were; a) support implementing partners to adopt and incorporate COVID-19 intervention under ERRY II as needed, to reduce the risks of contamination, b) communicate clear changes/simplification in required procedures for planning, designing, implementing and sustaining project activities (with accepted risks and risk mitigation approach). Following were the key activities implemented under ERRY II programme:

- Study on impact of COVID-19 on MSMEs:** This report aims to understand the different impacts of COVID-19 on the MSMEs in the governorates of Taiz, Abyan, and Lahj. The MSMEs covered in this assessment were: 1) Beekeeping, 2) Fishery & Livestock, 3) Food Industry/Processing, 4) Handmade textiles, 5) Pottery manufacturing, and 6) Solar Energy in the urban and rural areas of three locations. The total sample size covered in this assessment was 1059, divided between the three governorates as Abayn has 419, Lahj 283, and Taiz 357. Gender disaggregation was considered during the assessment, whereas female business owners constitute 36% of the total sample interviews, most of the female business



owners are in the handmade textiles, around 66% of the total female samples. In general, three main sectors dominated the sample size; fishery and livestock 33%, handmade textiles 27% and food processing 26%. Most of these businesses are self-managed by their owners. Only 32% of the interviewed business owners (349) declared that they are hiring employees to help them run their businesses. The status of the majority of interviewed business' owners is still operating by 66%. While 28% got affected, and their enterprises got interrupted, only 5% of the interviewed business' owners reported suspension of their activities, most of them are in food processing. The interviewed sectors' revenue varied since 99% of the interviewed business are considered micro and small businesses. The revenue level is mostly concentrated between \$940 and \$4700 for the last year for 914 businesses. Simultaneously, only 122 businesses stated that their revenue was between \$4700 and \$9400. Interviewed businesses' owners financially struggle as their expenses relatively similar to their revenues. 79% of the interviewed businesses' owners claimed a negative impact on their businesses due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The significant effects that businesses faced were operational, financial, and sales and logistical challenges.

- The assessments have provided an opportunity for UNDP and implementing partners to understand the support needed for COVID-19 response and beyond. Based on the findings of the assessments, UNDP is working to build the E-commerce platform for the rural market to connect more than 5000 MSMEs expected to create under ERRY II. UNDP is also working on to develop the Social Protection mechanism to ensure that MSMEs and their risks such as insolvency are being protection or mitigated for them to survive and thrive in local economy and value chain.
- **Preventive kits distribution:** Total 3000 households (21,000 individuals) and 40 health centres received COVID-19 preventive kits in Serar (Abyan Governorate), Al Sabih and Sharjab (Taiz Governorate), Bajil and Al Marawah (Hodeidah Governorate). Masks, water storage (Gerry cans) and sanitisers. The purpose of the kits' distribution was to support targeted communities to prevent the virus's spread while participating in the project activities. UNDP IPs participated in the distribution of the preventive kits.



- Grant support to MSMEs by local governance initiative:** Thirty-six initiatives were implemented by UNDP in response to coronavirus in which tailoring workshops/small centres were reactivated, and women were trained and provided with materials and supervised to procedure facemasks in three districts Ash Shamayatayn, At Ta'iziyah and Abss. In Taiz and Hajjah, 520 women received training on making face masks for coronavirus response and supported developing 35,881 facemasks and 453 PPEs for the local authorities. Whereas 250 women in Hajjah produced 17,081 facemasks and 354 PPEs 270 in Taiz 16,800 Facemasks and 100 PPEs.



- COVID-19 Kiosks establishment:** under the local governance component at the district level, the information management system has been established to support the district health office in tracking the COVID-19 and other diseases to develop its epidemiological profile. Social Fund for Development (SFD) has installed data management software. The kiosks' overall objective is to build a health care follow up system that includes data for visitors to health facilities and knowledge about their disease cases. The kiosk would also help identify the areas of disease spread at the local or neighbourhood level and provide real-time data to the Ministry of Health at the national and governorate level. The kiosk is an effort to standardize data collection and coordination mechanism at local and national levels. The kiosk also supports reducing the administrative costs at the district office level while increasing health facilities and workers' performance.

- Community radio and awareness raising:** SEARCH and other implementing partners under the ERRY II project managed to create awareness on COVID-19 and how to stop or mitigate the virus's spread. SEARCH accessed the community radio platform, which telecasted critical messages in more than ten governorates to help communities understand the impact of COVID-19 in their lives. Awareness and campaign materials developed and distributed among communities to communicate in simple and easy language.



5. VISIBILITY & COMMUNICATION

5.1 Communication & Visibility Activities:

Communication and visibility component of [ERRY II JP](#) is one of the programme key priorities as it aims at creating awareness among local communities, implementing partners, donors, the media, beneficiaries, and the public about ERRY's impact on the ground, as well as ensuring the visibility of EU & Sida contribution to the wellbeing of the people of Yemen.

The following activities were carried out during the reporting period as part of the program's communication & visibility strategy and annual communication plan. All listed activities were conducted for the purpose of promoting and communicating the results of the programme as well as ensuring visibility of EU , Sida and Participating UN Agencies.

- UNDP Yemen through ERRYII JP solar initiative funded by EU wins acclaimed [international Ashden Awards for Humanitarian Energy](#).
- 14 [stories](#) were published, one of which a story entitled "[Private Micro-Grid](#)" that was published on different international and local websites such as [Devex Website](#) and different [blogs](#) It drew the attention of global media outlets and agencies. Many stories also highlight [ERRYII contribution to COVID19 epidemic response](#).
- [Iman Al Hadi \(solar microgrid beneficiary\)](#) was featured in top [100 BBC influential women list](#): Iman, a solar microgrid station in Abbs (Hajjah), was selected and featured in the BBC influential women list. Iman, an inspiring story for women in Yemen, has demonstrated how hardship can be turned into opportunities and life-changing events. She has been a true grassroots leader and managed to become a change agent for the rest of the women in her community. The inclusion of Iman also presents testimony in the backdrop of the challenges, social and cultural barriers that women face in Yemen.
- Extensive coverage of the solar microgrid success stories in global media and print outlets including: [BBC, Aljazeera, UNDP, Youtube](#).
- [A factsheet](#) illustrating ERRY I components and ERRY II key achievements was produced, printed, published and disseminated to different stockholders..
- ERRYII progress brief [Issue I](#), [issue II](#) and [Issue III](#) were designed, published, and disseminated in English and Arabic. All produced progress brief highlight the Joint programme background ,key achievements, COVID-19 contribution, and challenges for each reporting period form as well as highlight some success stories and best practices of all components.
- A market study on seven different sectors was produced and published as follows:

- [Handloom and Textile Value Chain, Fishery Value Chain, Pottery Value Chain, Meat and Poultry Value Chain, Solar Energy Systems Value Chain, Food Industry Value Chain](#)
- 2020 calendar was designed printed and disseminated to all stakeholders of the joint programme that includes implementing partners and government officials.
- Roll ups illustrating the programme backgrounds were designed, printed and distributed in both English and Arabic.
- A photography production company was contracted to conduct a photography documentation to all joint programme interventions in Abyan, Lahj, and Taiz. [All photography materials](#) were collected, organized, captioned as well as shared with all participating UN agencies and donors. These photos were also used to produce various communication materials that include success stories and different social media content.
- [ERRYII JP website](#) was launched to further highlight the joint programme visibility, achievements, publications. The website was regularly updated with all relevant materials.
- ERRYII JP Social media platforms as well as participating UN agencies platforms were utilized to regularly post and tweet related activities and achievements. More than 150 posts and 5 social media campaigns the joint programme was part of.
- Two [videos](#) were produced highlighting ERRYII Joint programme solar energy components intervention to different health centers which has contributed to fighting COVID19 epidemic in the most vulnerable communities targeted by the programme.
- Covid - 19 Awareness publications that includes 5 flashes were produced and broadcasted through local radio channels covering all governorates in Yemen.
- A field visit was conducted to Lahj and Abyan for the purpose of collecting communication materials as well as ensuring EU, Sida and Partners visibility.

5.2 Donors Visibility

- A [training workshop](#) on communications guidelines was conducted by JCU Communications Officer for ERRY JP focal points and implementing partners in the north and the south. The workshop had spotlighted the light on the donors' certain requirements and standards when producing communication materials. And it was primarily organized to emphasize the importance of ensuring the donor's visibility in all communication materials produced as well as the field activities carried out.
- The donors' logos are included in all published communication materials ensuring visibility of EU, Sida, Participating UN agencies as well as implementing partners.



6. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The programme has developed a comprehensive M&E system so as to consistently and effectively monitor implementation of the programme's activities and evaluate its results. The following M&E activities were carried out during this reporting period:

- The M&E system of ERRY II has been strengthened by setting up an integrated [M&E Plan](#) that guides the JCU, PUNOs and IPs through the programme implementation process. The plan has been used as an internal tool to measure the progress of the programme towards its intended goal and objectives. The plan was developed following a participatory approach in consultation with PUNOs and IPs.
- A [training workshop](#) on the programme M&E plan was conducted by JCU for ERRY JP focal points and implementing partners in the north and the south. The training focused on the programme M&E system, including M&E plan, framework, accountability & learning, as well as M&E activities and responsibilities.
- Regular field visits were conducted by the programme team to monitor the implementation progress and collect first hand information related to beneficiaries' satisfaction and challenges faced.
- A TPM consulting company has been recruited to assist the programme in capturing, verifying, cataloguing data on the implemented activities. The TPM company is expected to provide an independent perspective on the programme implementation and achieved results as well as extend the reach of the programme to the areas where the programme staff cannot access due to security constraints. The preparatory stage for the first TPM cycle was completed and the TPM has started conducting the field visits to the programme targeted areas. WFP, as part of their corporate monitoring plan, has facilitated several visits by third-party monitors to ERRY II activity sites and cash distribution points.
- A result-oriented monitoring review was conducted by EU in July 2020. The objective of the ROM review was to assess the status of the programme and assist the management team to deal with challenges that have emerged, to find solutions and revise approaches, and where relevant, to adapt to changing circumstances. The following aspects were examined during the ROM review mission i) Relevance, ii) Coordination, complementarity, EU added value, iii) Intervention logic, monitoring & learning, iv) Efficiency, v) Effectiveness, vi) Sustainability, vii) Cross cutting issues (gender, human rights, environment, climate change), and viii) Communication and visibility.
- UNDP has concluded and finalized the baseline study in 2020. Due to the authorities' lack of permission, the baseline study was focused on the southern targeted districts. The baseline study has assessed the five capital assets in those districts; social, financial, physical, natural and human.
- The programme has been given due attention to accountability towards stakeholders, focusing on the three core standards and principles: **Information sharing, Participation, and Complaint and**

Feedback Mechanism. Information related to the programme's objectives, expected results, and progress achieved was made available to target communities, government partners, and other stakeholders. ERRY II Progress Briefs, in Arabic and English, were disseminated to stakeholders. The programme ensures the participation of key stakeholders throughout the programme cycle management starting from the kick-off workshop and during the field monitoring visits and coordination meetings. With regards to the GRM⁴ system, the programme ensures that multiple channels and means to submit complaints and solicit feedback from various community groups are in place and operational. Agencies and their partners ensured that their hotline posters and complaint boxes were available in all activity and cash distribution sites. Orientation sessions were provided to implementing partners on setting up the system or aligning with their GRM existing systems.

- A market study on seven value chains was conducted and finalized as a part of market assessment. Sectors such as pottery, fisheries, textile and handloom, food processing, beekeeping, meat and poultry, and solar energy, were studied. The assessments provided the COVID-19 impacts on MSMEs in the above sectors. Below are the links to the studies.

1. [A Synthesis Report on Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises in Yemen with Potential COVID-19 Impact Analysis.](#)
2. [Solar Energy Value Chain Report:](#)
3. [Handloom and Textile Value Chain Report:](#)
4. [Pottery Value Chain Report:](#)
5. [Fisheries Value Chain Report:](#)
6. [Meat and Poultry Value Chain Report:](#)
7. [Food Processing Value Chain Report:](#)
8. [Beekeeping Value Chain Report:](#)

- Micronarrative data collection implementation: The data collection (baseline) started in July and continued until September. Due to the lack of permission in the northern target districts, the data collection focused on the south only. More than 3500 data points were collected and analysed over the SENSEMAKER software to understand the targeted communities' baseline status. The micronarrative tool also collected the midline data in December. The end line data is expected to gather in quarter



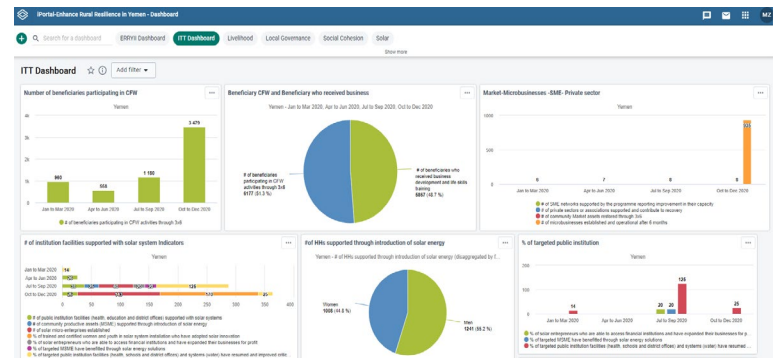
Picture: SENSEMAKER ONLINE

- Development of KAP⁵ and Longitudinal Survey tools: UNDP project team has developed KAP and longitudinal survey tools. KAP survey is led by the Social Fund for Development, where the longitudinal survey would be facilitated by the third-party and expected to start by the end of quarter one in 2021.

⁴ Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM)

⁵ Knowledge, Attitude and Practice

- Quarterly Partners Review Meeting: UNDP project team in the leadership of National and Field coordinators conducted quarterly partners review meeting. The review framework includes contract management, compliance, coordination, and communication. Implementing partners also get an opportunity to raise their concern and provide feedback to the project team in terms of improvement areas.
- Implementing Partners Capacity Building Training on Technical Components, Finance, M&E, Gender and Conflict Sensitivity: partners were invited to several capacity building activities organized by the project team. The finance officer provided handholding support for financial management and implementing the spot check recommendations. Management Support Unit (MSU) provided the orientation on contract and compliance policy and practices to implementing partners explaining the provision and red lines. With the support of the Gender Advisor, partners were able to receive support on gender inclusion and overcame challenges regarding targeting. SEARCH for Common Ground organized the Gender and Conflict Sensitivity training for ERRY II implementing partners and built their capacities. Lastly, the project's technical specialists have continuously provided handholding support to the implementing partners to ensure quality delivery on both technical and operational aspects.
- Roll out of Management Information System: A web-based data management system was developed to monitor the progress of the programme and support the ecosystem of data management. The platform is based on DHIS⁶ interface. At the project level, UNDP has customized the same system to manage the project-related data flow and support UNDP management, implementing partners and donors in real-time monitoring and access to information. The online system provides access to implementing partners and UNDP to supervise the data collection, storage, processing, and final products development. The online platform is hosted by BIOAS company with a yearly subscription. Data management has a protection mechanism, and the data set is encrypted. The data points contain baseline, midline and end line stages.



⁶ District Health Information System (DHIS)

7. KEY CHALLENGES

The complexity of the Yemeni context is the main reason for many challenges faced by all agencies participating in the programme. As reported by the four participating UN agencies, below are the main challenges encountered while implementing ERRY II JP activities:

- **Security Situation:** The security situation in Yemen continues to be unstable. The insecurity and political interference in programme implementation as well as the COVID-19 pandemic have caused significant delays and resulted in limited travels to project sites to the minimum; technical backstopping to IP's and monitoring delivery of programme is also limited. A sudden upsurge of conflict in Abyan, mainly in Serar and nearby districts, challenged the implementing partners to visit the field locations. The nature of the war in Abyan was very complicated, where gun shooting and fighting continued for several weeks.
- **COVID-19:** The emergence of the novel Corona virus slowed down the implementation of projects in targeted locations and resulted in withholding of gatherings, consultations, trainings and in few cases activity implementation. A business continuity plan developed to continue the project implementation. Without changing the project design, the activities were re-focused to contribute to the COVID-19 response, for example, under the local governance component, grants identified in the health and water sectors at the sub-district level. Implementing partners adopted crowd management to continue the cash for work activities and applied online business skill training methodology. Partners also distributed preventive measures (masks, sanitisers, jerry cans) to promote handwashing and social distancing.
- **Implementation permits and security clearances:** The complexity and lengthy process of obtaining implementation permits from national authorities in the north caused significant delays as projects started at least 7 months later than the planned dates. After receiving the approvals, partners have been implementing the activities at full pace. However, work on synergies have been delayed due to the different times of obtaining permits by IPs. The programme has exerted great effort to agree on a coordination mechanism with SCMCHA, which would eventually help expedite the delivery further by the PUNOs.
- **Inflation and exchange rates difference in the regions:** the programme has also experienced inflation and exchange rates difference within northern and southern regions. Though UNROE continues to be based on northern exchange rates, it would be appropriate to re-look at inflation

and exchange rates from macroeconomic indicator perspectives and not based on where most business transactions occur.

- **Livelihood needs continue to soar.** The meltdown of Yemen economy occasion by current crisis (conflict and Covid-19) has caused many more people to become food insecure. The support provided through programme does not sufficiently meet the massive number of vulnerable households that need to benefit from the programme. As such, the high number of needy farmers, for example, and women, not covered by the programme, request support, mainly for feed supplements (feed blocks, molasses, concentrate feeds), small-dairy equipment and fodder choppers.
- **Operational challenges:** below are some of the operational challenges faced by the programme:
 - The unprecedented torrential rains and flooding that hit governorates across Yemen during the second and third quarters of 2020 had a major impact on the programme's implementation. The flooding damaged infrastructure, destroyed homes and shelters, causing deaths and injuries, ruining crops and killing livestock.
 - The constant severe fuel shortage in both regions of the country in northern governorates have posed another challenge, mainly on increasing the cost of transportation of goods and materials, as well as IPs teams.
 - The devaluation of Yemeni Rial and the substantial difference in the exchange rate between the North and South posed operational challenges for the programme.
 - Involvement of some local authorities in some districts creates some complications and difficulties to implement some activities, such as the distribution process of inputs.
 - Difficulties in getting visas to Yemen for international consultants and/or evaluators, which critically affect the efficiency and timeliness of deliverables.
 - Poor internet connectivity created challenge for beneficiaries to receive training online.
 - Lack of certified trainers and adaptability to the pandemic situation delayed the business and skill building training.
 - Lack of availability of banking coverage to the remote parts of Yemen created access to finance and cash issues for the beneficiaries.
- **Gender inclusion:** the project has experienced gender inclusion challenges, in particular in the south. For example, more than 160 women faced with cultural and social barriers were not allowed to travel to the bank to access their microgrants. With the support of the Gender Advisor and Team Leader (EDU), the project team worked together to intervene and support the implementing partner (FAF). Consultation with banks, local authority, and neighbourhoods to sensitize on gender inclusion and importance. Finally, all 160 women were able to receive their grants and established micro businesses.

ANNEXES:

Annex 1: Annual Work Plan – Year III

Link to the [Annual Work Plan of Year III](#)

Annex 2: ERRY II Implementing Partners

PUNOs	IPs	Region
UNDP	Social Fund for Development (SFD)	North & South
	Sustainable Development Foundation (SDF)	North
	Enjaz Foundation for Development (EFD)	North
	Millennium Development Foundation (MDF)	North
	Youth Leadership Development foundation (YLDF)	North
	For All Foundation (FAF)	South
	Care International (Care Int'l)	South
	Oxfam International	South
	Search for Common Ground (SFCG)	North & South
	Musanada Foundation for Development (MFD)	North & South
WFP	Care International (Care Int'l)	South
	Relief International (RI)	North
	Islamic Relief (IRY)	North
	Save the Children (SCI)	South and North
FAO	Tamdeen Youth Foundation (TYF)	South
	Steps Foundation for Civil Development (SFCD)	South
	Bena Charity for Humanitarian Development (BCHD)	South
ILO	Ghadaq for Development	North
	Mayar Foundation for Development (MFD)	South

