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Supporting Resilient Livelihoods and Food Security in Yemen – Joint Programme (ERRYII)

Annual Narrative Report - 2021

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Acronyms

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
YADE	Yemeni Association for Development and Environment

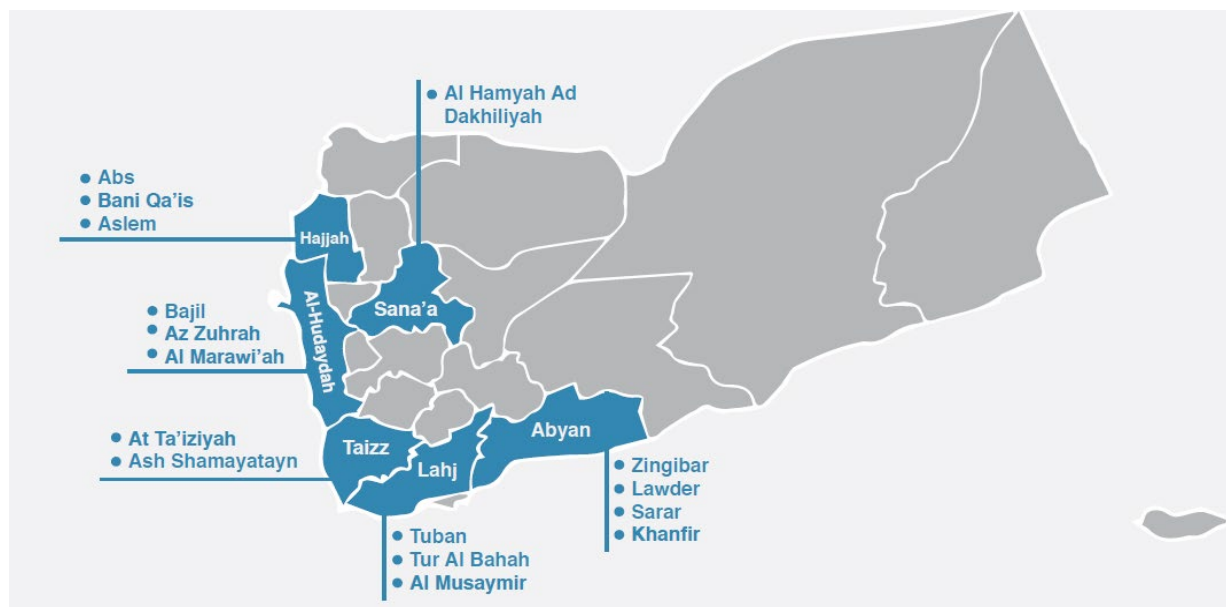
1. Background

1.1 Programme Description:

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, FMF, SRA Foundation, YADE, MOZN, SADA Foundation, Assistance Foundation.	
Target Beneficiaries	Direct	740,404
	Indirect	601,278

Capitalizing on the gains and lessons learned during the first phase of ERRY, 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. The second phase of ERRY Joint Programme, "Supporting Resilient Livelihoods and Food Security in Yemen (ERRY II)", is co-funded by EU and Sida, and 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.

ERRY II Targeted Governorates and Districts



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 reducing vulnerability and strengthening 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.

This annual report covers the implementation period from January to December 2021. It describes key activities implemented and results achieved, and outlines lessons learned, and impediments encountered during the reporting period.

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.

1.2 Context of the Action

Yemen continues to grapple with several challenges that include protracted conflict, economic meltdown, climatic hazards like flash floods, and Covid-19 has exacerbated the situation deepening humanitarian crisis in the country.

The reporting period (2021) has been characterized by armed conflict and continued geopolitics that often result in armed incursions into territories of parties involved in the dispute that escalated the situation. Due to increased insecurity, several restrictions were imposed to ensure UN's and IPs personnel security and safety in implementing their mandate in the country. The restrictions limited access to project sites and beneficiaries and reducing level of monitoring of implementation of programme activities.

With the conflict continuing in 2021, the value of the Yemeni rial continued to depreciate to new historic lows, driving large increases in food prices and pushing more people into extreme poverty. Socioeconomic conditions deteriorated rapidly, further affected by declining remittances, trade disruptions, severe fuel supply shortages, and the disruption and declining humanitarian operations. The private sector, that drives economic growth faces enormous challenges due to a challenging business environment in Yemen¹.

Climatic hazards did not spare the country. Yemen experienced unusually high rainfall in the months of May, June, and July with some parts of the country hit with flash floods resulting in destruction of roads and irrigation infrastructures as well as flooding of farmland and rangelands. The above normal rainfall resulted in increased population of disease-transmitting vectors resulting in disease outbreaks in both human and livestock population. Death of livestock due to diseases, starvation due to lack of pasture and inaccessibility to animal health services were reported in several areas.

The unprecedented humanitarian crisis persists, and further aggravated by COVID-19 situation. Covid-19 pandemic upended humanitarian and development programming in 2021, impart due to restrictions on travels that limited access to programme sites, restricted gathering made it difficult to conduct in-person beneficiaries training, workshops/meetings, field monitoring and provide technical backstopping to implementing partners in the field. The Covid-19 situation in many ways impacted the pace and quality of delivery of programme.

¹ The World Bank in Yemen (November 2021)

The divide between northern and southern Yemen controlled by the Sana'a Based Authorities (SBA) and Internationally Recognized Government (IRG) respectively which have different governance systems and visions have created many challenges for humanitarian and development agencies in Yemen. For example, DFA requires all donor-funded projects/programme to be reviewed by the Supreme Council for the Management and Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and International Coordination (SCMCHA) and permits to be granted before start of implementation. Often time, permits take long to be issued to allow implementation to commence. Such delays cause several repercussions on programme delivery. With respect to ERRY II programme, especially the FAO component suffered several impediments with regards to permits to FAO and FAO's IPs. More IP's had to secure clearances for every activity which often took time to be issued, causing many delays. All the deliverable reported in succeeding section of this report under FAO component have mainly been achieved in the IRG controlled areas where no significant delays experienced in securing implementation permits.

Furthermore, the widespread conflict has impacted both urban and rural livelihoods. Over 78 per cent of households are in a worse economic situation compared to the pre-crisis period. More than 40 percent of Yemeni households are estimated to have lost their primary source of income, and jobs have become scarce.² The conflict has pushed more people into poverty, sharply reduced economic activity, and deeply diminished people's self-reliance and livelihoods. The lack of economic opportunities is seen as the main reason behind declining livelihoods for all population groups in the governorates and districts. Suspension of salaries came second, while deteriorated livelihoods due to inflation came third. The absence of economic opportunities and the high proportion of youth among total population (60 percent), make livelihoods promotion an urgent matter.³

Responding to that and based on the success achieved of joint programme "Enhanced Rural Resilience in Yemen" (ERRY) funded by the EU and implemented by FAO, ILO, UNDP, and the WFP. The EU and Sida co-financed a new joint programme "Supporting Resilient Livelihoods and Food Security in Yemen joint programme (ERRY II)", that is being implemented by the same four agencies above in six vulnerable governorates: Hajjah, Hodeidah, Lahj, Abyan, Taiz and Sana'a.

2. Progress towards Results

Notwithstanding the crisis and challenges faced during the reporting period, ERRY II joint programme has managed to support targeted communities and households improve their resilience, food security, livelihoods, and economic empowerment. The programme, in cooperation with its implementing partners and counterpart institutions, delivered several important achievements as highlighted in the subsequent sections.

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. Short-term employment opportunities have been created by

² OCHA, *Humanitarian Needs Overview-Yemen*, Humanitarian Programme Cycle 2021, Issued February 2021

³ *ibid*

rehabilitating key community assets through the implementation of Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) activities. The output has also contributed to improving access to income and markets for individuals who met their emergency needs and gained alternative livelihoods business skills. Beneficiaries were able to select businesses that suited their interests and capabilities while taking into account local market realities.

Activity Result 1.1: Skills developed, and food security improved for vulnerable farming households through agricultural value chain development (FAO).

By the end of the reporting period (December 2021), about 80% deliverables achieved in southern districts and only 50% deliverables achieved in northern districts. The support to dairy value chain development has had positive results on women smallholders involved in milk collection and processing.

The following table provides a high-level summary of the programme's progress towards achieving its annual and overall delivery targets towards activity result 1.1 under output 1 in its third year of implementation.

Indicator	Target	Progress Against targets			Notes
		Reporting period	Cumulative total	% of achievement	
# of farmers provided with inputs to improve coffee value chain (disaggregated by gender)	350	500	500	143%	Number of target beneficiaries was revised upwards in accordance with finding and recommendation of the agriculture value chain assessment conducted in 2019
# of farmers provided with inputs to improve cereal (sorghum, millet and legumes) chain (disaggregated by gender)	19,000	11,300	11,300	59%	No cereal (sorghum, millet and legume) seeds distributed in northern Yemen. Community seed banks identified as alternative intervention to distribution of seeds.
# of farmers provided with inputs to improve tomato chain (disaggregated by gender)	5,900	5,900	5,900	100%	Beneficiaries provided with tomato kits (seed, NPK fertilizer, neem oil and traps) in southern districts and NPK fertilizer, neem oil and traps in northern governorates - tomato seeds not distributed due to ban of distribution of seeds.
# of farmers benefited from FFS (disaggregated by gender)	6,500	4,759	6,884		About 60% members of FFS comprised of women
# of farmers supported to improve livestock productivity	25,000	9,596	25,000	100%	BNFs provided with animal feeds (wheat bran, feed blocks and molasses (molasses, feed blocks, wheat bran: 50% women)
# of dairy producers supported with inputs (disaggregated by gender)	6,000	5,305	6,487		Reported progress is for southern governorates only. Implementation in northern governorates yet to be completed. 90% beneficiaries supported are women.
# of farmers trained on sorghum/ millet, tomato, milk and coffee value chains, livestock fattening	25,000	16,500	18,825		

and health, dairy product processing and marketing (disaggregated by gender)					
# of farmers trained on entrepreneurship skills and financial literacy	1,200	800			Reported progress is only for southern governorates
# of rural farmers associations providing training to upgrade members' technical and entrepreneurship skill	80 groups /associations	100			207 members of producing groups have been trained on ILO Cooperative's training package (THINK and Star COOPS).
Proportion of the targeted beneficiaries reporting increase in their income due to agriculture value chain support	70%	0			It will be measured at the later stage

In this reporting period, FAO implemented activities related to agricultural value chain development contributing to the attainment of Result 1.1. The agricultural value chains activities supported included:

- Small-scale backyard sheep/goat fattening business (women constituting about 60% of target beneficiaries).
- Small-scale milk production, home processing and milk hygiene standards through supporting to women, dairy producers & milk collectors (women constituting about 90% of beneficiaries).
- Promotion of cereal production (sorghum, millet, and legumes) for enhanced food security.
- Tomato value chain for improved production and marketing.
- Pilot coffee value chain with selected producers to improve smallholder coffee production.
- Water is key for agriculture production and a key intervention implemented ensuring sustainable water resource use and agriculture production.



The overarching strategy applied in the development of agricultural value chains includes: (1) provision of agriculture inputs and assets to target beneficiaries (individuals or groups) which included coffee processing irrigation and dairy equipment, animal feeds, crop seeds (millet, sorghum, cowpea, tomato) and materials for biological control of pests in tomato crops, and; (2) capacity development on good agriculture production (crop and livestock) practices, improved processing of milk and milk products and marketing techniques. FAO applied the Farmer Field Schools (FFS) approach in skilling farmers adopt good agriculture practices to increase production and productivity. In FFSs, small-holder producers test, validate and adopt good agriculture

production and marketing practices that have assisted them increase production and livelihoods improvements for families.

Action 1.1.2: Support farmers to improve sorghum/millet value chain through provision of improved seeds and capacity building (FAO)

Sorghum, millet, and legumes are food security crops with most food-insecure people dependent on these crops. The actions taken to support cereal/legume production included provision of quality seeds (20 of sorghum, 10 kg of millet seed and 5 kg of legume to each beneficiary farmer). While the grains produced are consumed at household level as food and surplus marketed as source of income, the stover (sorghum leaves and stalks left in a field after harvesting the grain) are collected and used as feed/fodder for livestock. The action delivered on/achieve the following (see Table 1).



- 11,300 beneficiary farmers provided with sorghum, millet and cowpeas seeds disaggregated by crop type: sorghum seed package - 8900 BNFs, millet package - 1200 BNFs and cowpea seed package - 1200 BNFs.

Awareness on good cereal production practices was provided to 7,600 beneficiary farmers during distribution and during follow up on the use of the inputs. **Table 1:** Cereal value chains: type of inputs provided and number of BNFs reached

# Governorates	# Districts	Number of BNF Farmers provided cereal planting materials (seeds)			
		<i>Sorghum</i>	<i>Millet</i>	<i>Cowpeas</i>	<i>Total</i>
3	6	8,900	1,200	1,200	11,300

Table 1b: Cereal value chains: quantity of sorghum, millet and cereal seeds distributed to beneficiaries

Seed	Total Qty (kg)	Qty per HH (kg/HH)
Cowpea	9150	8
Millet	24,000	20
Sorghum	178,000	20

The 11,300 BNFs reached with the support are in six districts of southern Yemen (Khanfir, Lawder, Zinjibar, Tuban, Tur Al Bahah and Ash Shaymaytyn). In northern districts (Al Mraweah, Az Zuhra, Bajil, Abs, Bani Qais and Attaiziah) no cereal seeds distributed because of the ban by SBA on distribution of any form of crop seeds by humanitarian/development agencies to farmers in the areas it controls.

An alternative intervention to cereal seed distribution was explored with the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MAI) in Sana'a. Community seed bank was identified and accepted as a viable alternative to seed distribution. The concept of the community seedbanks is to enable

farmers to store/preserve own seeds of local varieties adapted to their agro-ecological system as an important tool in conservation of agrobiodiversity. Linkages between the seedbanks and the National Genetic Resource Centre (NGRC) created to ensure sustainable management of biodiversity. Modality for implementation of the seed bank is building capacity of farmers using participatory approaches to produce high quality seeds, management of the seedbanks at community level and access to high quality seed.

The plan was to construct community seed banks, one in each of the six ERRY districts in the north. It took quite a while for the authorities (Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and Thiama Development Authority) in the north to approve the alternative intervention. Moreover, internal processes of design of the seed bank, technical approval of the design and procurement process of contracting service provider to construct the seed bank were, took longer than expected. It is estimated that the construction of the seed banks and training of community seed bank committee members and extension workers on management of the seed banks would take about three months to complete. However, all preparatory stages for the establishment of the seed bank (design and BOQ was completed) except for the actual construction work. The activity could not be completed due to the imperative of looming project end date.

Overall, 11 300 smallholder cereal farmers received cereal seeds and planted sorghum and millet; cowpeas were intercropped with cereal crops in accordance with the traditional agronomic practices. Each beneficiary cultivated an average of one hectare of sorghum and/or millet. Crop yields per area cultivated/per unit of land for beneficiaries will be determined when impact survey is completed. Important to note that the assistance contributed to improving beneficiaries' access to food from its own production for at least six months. Residues from sorghum and millet crops were used as fodder for feeding animals resulting in improved milk production and improved weight gains for at least 2 – 3 months.

Action 1.1.3: Support farmers to improve tomato value chains through provision of improved seeds, fertilizers, marketing, and capacity building (FAO).

This action continued to address critical issues of low production/productivity of tomato crops and losses due to pests and diseases (e.g., *Tuta absoluta*). The support provided included provision of tomato seeds, NPK fertilizer, neem oil for biological and pheromone traps for control of tomato pests. The following were delivered during the reporting period.

- Tomato seeds, NPK fertilizer, neem oil for biological and pheromone traps provided to 2,450 beneficiary farmers in six districts in southern Yemen.
- Drip irrigation system distributed to 40 contact farmers in six southern districts and 60 in northern districts. This is a pilot for demonstration to tomato FFS on using drip irrigation for



sustainable use of water for production and capitalize success in future expansion of the intervention.

- Awareness training on good agriculture practices on tomato production reached 2,314 tomato farmers.

Table 2a: Tomato value chains: type of inputs provided and number of BNFs reached

Governorate	District	Number of BNF Farmers provided with Tomato Kits				
		Tomato seed	Irrigation kit	NPK fertilizer	Neem Oil	Traps
6	12	2,450	100	5,900	5,450	5450

Table 2b: Tomato value chains: inputs provided and number of BNFs reached by IP

Input	Unit	Total Quantity
Drip irrigation system	kit	100
Tomato seeds	tin	2450
NPK fertilizer	bag	5900
Neem oil	bottle	5450
Pheromone traps	piece	5450

Action 1.1.4: Support farmers to improve livestock productivity through provision and development of feed resources, fodder, and capacity building (FAO).

The action is meant to increase livestock productivity manifested in increased milk production, weight gain and improved survival and flock size. In addition, the action addressed problems of poor livestock feeding due to shortage poor quality through training and high prices feeds (concentrates and fodders).

To deliver on the action, the activities planned included distribution of fodder choppers, fodder seeds and training on fodder production and processing. These were not delivered for following reasons.

- Fodder seeds (Alfalfa and Rhode grass): due to ban of distribution of seeds in DFA controlled areas, fodder seeds were not distributed in northern districts. Plan to move the consignment of fodder seeds to Internationally Recognized Government (IRG) areas and distribute the seeds in Tuban and Tur Al Baha districts was not implemented because DFA delayed issuing movement permit and the seed expired when still in the store. No new procurement of fodder seeds for the southern districts was made.



- Choppers: Due to the cost of each unit of chopper which was more than USD 1500 per unit, FAO rules required the item to be categorized under asset. However, in ERRY budget,

choppers were under expendable budget line. Budget revision (BR) was required, which was done at country level, but the BR was not cleared by FAO HQ and EU. Procurement Orders were not issued due to the confusion on the budget category should fall (assets or expendable items). The procurement process halted because of the unresolved budget category and imminent project NTE date.

Action 1.1.5: Support farmers to improve livestock productivity through provision of veterinary services and a vaccination campaign.

Pestes des petit ruminant (PPR) and sheep/goat pox (SGP) are diseases affecting sheep and goats and are endemic in Yemen. Any outbreak of the diseases caused massive disruption to the livestock subsector with serious impact on livestock production and productivity due to morbidity and mortalities and economic losses due to reduced value of animals and restriction of access to markets to sell animals. A situation of outbreak of these diseases results in increased food insecurity and nutrition vulnerability of livestock-dependent families.

Vaccination campaigns aimed at prevention and control of PPR and SGP, combined with treatment of sheep and goats against internal and external parasites was conducted in three governorates (Abyan, Lahj and Taiz). In the campaigns, total of 509,254 sheep/goats vaccinated and dewormed and 33,464 households reached with animal health services (vaccination and treatment).



Serum samples for Lab analysis were collected during the vaccination campaigns for later analysis to determine effectiveness of the vaccination campaigns in terms of level of protection against PPR reached after the vaccination exercise. The serum samples collected are stored in cold rooms and will be analysed when laboratory reagents and equipment are delivered. Number of animals vaccinated and number of households that received the services are provided in Table 3.

Governorate	District	# Animals vaccinated	# HHs reached
		(<i>Sheep + Goats</i>)	
3	16	509,254	33,464

Action 1.1.6: Support smallholder dairy farmers to improve milk production through provision of small dairy equipment and capacity development including empowering female-headed households to process and market improved traditional dairy products (FAO)

The intervention empowered beneficiaries (over 90% females) engage in dairy value chain activities which included milk production and collection, processing, and marketing. The support targeted following categories of beneficiaries: individuals, small dairy groups (100% women), pioneer women groups and milk processing centres.



Beneficiaries were provided with assorted dairy equipment detailed in Annex 1. In addition, Individual beneficiaries and small women groups members were provided with animal feeds (wheat bran, feed blocks and molasses) to improve the milk production of their animals. Moreover, targeted beneficiaries were trained in appropriate dairy practices namely, animal feeding, milking techniques, milk hygiene and handling, milk processing and marketing milk and dairy products. The number of persons reached with dairy value chain supported totaled 5,661 as detailed in Table 4.

Table 4: Dairy value chains: type of inputs provided and number of BNF categories reached

Governorate	District	Number of BNF Farmers supported to engage in dairy value chain					
		Individual	Women dairy group	Pioneer Dairy Group	Dairy Centre		Training
					# Centre	# BNF	
6	12	3,346	1,644	180	62	390	2,535

Action 1.1.7: Empower female-headed households to develop small-scale backyard sheep/goat fattening businesses by providing small equipment, feed, vaccines, drugs, marketing facilities and capacity building (FAO).

The action targeted mainly women involved in fattening of small ruminants (sheep/goats) to reach market size and fetch good price. The support involved provision of animal feeds (wheat bran, feed blocks and molasses). Sheep/goats are important source of income for rural and peri-urban smallholder farmers enabling them to meet immediate family needs mainly food and other household expenditures. Since majority of beneficiaries are women, the action contributes to their economic empowerment through improved food security and income generation. In all, a total of 16,000 beneficiaries in nine districts were provided with wheat bran, feed blocks and molasses. Table 5 elaborates the level of achievements.

Table 5: Fattening value chains: type of inputs provided and number of BNFs reached

Governorate	District	Number of BNF Farmers supported with livestock feeds			
		Wheat bran	Feed block	Molasses	Training
6	12	21,315	22,815	22,115	21,143

Action 1.1.8: Support farmers to improve coffee value chain productivity and quality (FAO)

Assessment of water infrastructures for coffee production was conducted in Al Haymah Ad Dakhlyia. Total of five water structures used by coffee farmers identified for rehabilitation. However, the rehabilitation was not done due to disagreement by local authorities on the wells identified for rehabilitation and they demanded more wells to be rehabilitated which available budgetary provision could not accommodate. This resulted in blocking the activity of rehabilitation of the identified wells.

With respect to inputs for targeted coffee farmers, coffee dryers and coffee beans sorting machines were identified in consultation with the farmers. A total of 250 coffee dryers procured and distributed to target farmers – one coffee dryer shared between two farmers. FFS for coffee enterprise established and analysis of coffee production from farmers' perspective, sharing information, and learning use of equipment to improve coffee quality were conducted.

An in-depth coffee value chain study aiming to identify opportunities, requirements for value chain development including value addition and marketing is planned as part of reprogramming of the action. The planned study is underway the results of which will inform future interventions.

Success Story

We are 15 members, all women of Saber Milk Center in Lahj. We are closely knit group operating the centre which has flourished because of close cooperation of the members. With support of FAO which provided dairy equipment (packaging bottles, milk cans, solar-powered air conditioners to save operating expenses, and linkage to central market) and training, we have been able to grow and expand.

We started with a small capital raised through initial members' own contributions through an established saving fund by a member paying monthly contributions. We started by buying milk from local farmers or member's own farms and processing milk into various by-products and marketing small quantities of milk and dairy products. We have expanded the milk processing and diversified by setting up grocery stores as outlets for marketing milk and other products from the centre. We are making daily profit of about 12,000 Yemeni riyals per day from the sale of milk and milk products processed through the Saber Milk Centre.

As the results of hard work and working together, members of Saber Milk Centre have improved. The standard of living of respective member's household have improved. Most importantly, nutrition of our children has improved even in midst of current economic challenges our country is going through.

Our plan is to establish new grocery stores in Al-Houta district of Aden governorate to increase sale and profit margins of the centre. The expansion will require a means of transportation for the product (Tuk Tuk), solar energy and solar-powered air conditioners to improve working conditions, maintain products, increase productivity, and thus obtain more profit. – this is our drive for scaling up.

Action 1.1.10: Upgrade skills and knowledge of farmers/women through comprehensive programme of training, farmer field schools and extension materials and demonstrations (FAO)

The action aimed to organize 6500 farmers (women and men) into 200 FFSs groups and facilitate learning and knowledge sharing on good agriculture practices on cereal (sorghum, millet, and legumes) and tomato production; good animal husbandry practices focusing on milk production, milking practices, milk hygiene, processing of traditional dairy products and marketing; and livestock fattening, animal health, farm management and fodder production (for male farmers).



Under the action, 189 FFS established with average of 25 farmers per FFS group comprising of 4,750 smallholder farmers. Women constituted about 60 percent of members of the FFS groups. During the reporting period a combined 1,125 FFS sessions were facilitated by 31 Dec 2021. The number of FFS established and smallholder farmers involved, and enterprises selected are detailed in Table 6.

Table 6: Farmer Field Schools: Number of FFS established and number of smallholder farmers engaged in different enterprises.

Governorate	District	Number of BNF Farmers engaged in FFS for respective enterprise									
		Cereal		Tomato		Dairy		Fattening		Coffee	
		#FFS	#BNFs	#FFS	#BNFs	#FFS	#BNFs	#FFS	#BNFs	#FFS	#BNFs
6	12	28	700	40	998	61	1519	38	949	10	250

Under activity result 1.1 “Skills developed, and food security improved for vulnerable farming households through agricultural value chain development”, ILO in collaboration with FAO implemented the following two activities:

- Rural farmers and rural farmers’ associations have been trained on entrepreneurship skills, market information and financial literacy in selected value chains and related sectors so that they can provide opportunities for members to upgrade technical and entrepreneurship skills.
- Also, women engaged in rural agriculture were provided with training on business development services, marketing skills, savings schemes, and diversification of livelihoods.

The ILO in coordination with FAO has conducted a needs assessment of cooperative enterprises and other similar producer organizations, as well as cooperative support organizations (i.e. business development service providers catering for cooperatives) operating in the project target governorates.

CALLS FOR INCREASED SUPPORT TO YEMEN'S AGRICULTURE SECTOR AS FAO MARKS WORLD FOOD DAY IN YEMEN

Under ERRYII Joint Programme, The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) joined the Ministry of Agriculture in Yemen to celebrate World Food Day at a colorful event held at the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences in Lahj Governorate. The event, commemorated under the theme «Our actions are our future - better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life», was graced by the Governor of Lahj & the deputy minister for Agriculture and Production Development Sector, among other government officials from the governorate.

Exhibition pavilions featured success stories of improved agriculture value chains from interventions implemented by FAO under a programme titled «Supporting Resilient Livelihoods and Food Security in Yemen (ERRY II) », funded by the European Union (EU) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).



Under the project, FAO supported dairy producers, mainly women, with modern dairy processing equipment, provided in tandem with training in food standards and hygiene and in how to make a wider variety of dairy products such as baladi cheese – a popular white cheese commonly used in Yemen dishes but previously imported. The World Food Day celebrations gave these women a chance to tell the success stories of their thriving dairy businesses, as well as to promote the various dairy products that they are now producing.

Needs Assessment:

The needs assessment analysed the potential of these informal producers' organizations to coalesce into cooperative enterprises. Particular attention was given to agricultural crops value chains (coffee, sorghum/millet and tomato); Livestock value chains; and dairy products from sheep and goat). Based on the findings of the need assessment, the main recommendation in terms of capacity-building was to ensure the sustainability and institutionalization of the knowledge of the cooperative sector.

The assessment recommended the implementation of two types of training packages based on the needs and type of the beneficiaries as follows:

- 1- The Producing groups which formed by FAO in the selected value chains could be trained in how to improve and sustain their work through coalescing or transforming into former cooperatives. The training materials would focus on ILO Think.COOP and Start.COOP.

- 2- Rural women farmers could improve their knowledge on entrepreneurship and marketing skills so they can open and manage their own businesses and ensure sustainable income. The entrepreneurship training package could be “I Own a Small Business” and “My First Business” according to beneficiaries’ education level .

Selection and adaptation of the training packages:

For cooperatives training:

It was required to develop and adapt the training packages in addition to expand and build capacity of national trainers who can deliver the trainings. the following actions completed:

- The ILO worked to adapt the training manual of Think.coop and Start. Coop to better fit the Yemeni context. The Think.COOP and Start.COOP models have been developed as a low-cost, easy-to-use training tool for those interested in establishing and launching a cooperative. It draws on technical content from existing materials in different ILO cooperative training tools and peer-to-peer, activity based learning methodology from the ILO’s Community-Based Enterprise Development (C-BED) programme, Think.COOP provides simple information on the basics of cooperatives. The focus of the Start.COOP modules is on the decisions to be made at each step with a view to increasing chances of success.
- Selection of national trainers completed, the selection criteria consider matching the project and the training’s objectives and to ensure access to professional trainers capable of supporting groups of producers aiming to establish cooperatives in the targeted governorates, in way that integrates with the ILO, FAO field activities. The trainers were chosen in coordination with the national organization related to Cooperative works such as agricultural cooperatives union (ACU), Ministry of Agriculture offices, Agriculture institutes in the targeted governorates
- Two Training of Facilitators or (TOT) have been completed: a total of 35 national trainer have been trained in two groups (one in Sanaa and other in Aden) . Training period was eight days where the trainings were held by communicating with the main trainer remotely (via Zoom), and facilitation by two national facilitators. The main trainer and the national facilitator used several tools, mechanisms, and training aids to implement the learning activities, according to the training manual approved by the ILO.

For entrepreneurship training

- Based on an assessment of the target group, ILO advised to use “I own a small business” instead of the proposed “Get Ahead” training packages . “I own a small business” training package is intended to capacitate women engaged in agriculture on business development services, marketing skills, savings schemes, diversification of livelihoods, etc.
- Consequently, ILO conducted TOT workshop on the semiliterate training package “I own a small business” for 52 trainers to expand number of trainers to have enough trainers who can deliver this training package. In an effort to move forward with the implementation of activities amidst COVID-19, ILO conducted the TOT workshops in a mixed training format, combining pre-recorded sessions, online / live sessions and working sessions with local trainers.

Training for direct beneficiaries:

Selection of the beneficiaries:

- ILO contracted with SMEPS to implement and deliver the training for direct beneficiaries in target governorates (Lahj , Abyan and Taiz) for 600 individual rural women in entrepreneurship training packages and at least 45 producer's groups (200 members) to be trained in cooperatives training packages.
- ILO in coordination with FAO developed selection criteria which helped in selection both type of beneficiaries (individual rural farmer women and agricultural producing groups members)
- A list of 100 producer's groups formed by FAO comprised of 200 members participated in dairy, fattening and tomato production was submitted to ILO to be trained in cooperatives training packages . In addition, from list of 100 producer's groups, 600 individual rural women have been selected for the training . The 600 individuals were participated in dairy, fattening and tomato production was submitted to ILO to be trained in entrepreneurship training packages.
- Based on verification of list provided by FAO, it was noticed that some beneficiaries are not comply with provided criteria to benefit from the training and some other information should be corrected. So , number of versions for the lists of beneficiaries between FAO and ILO and FAO IPs has been made to improve quality of lists. Due to time constraint and limited number beneficiaries in the target governorates (Lahj , Abyan and Taiz) so IL accept the list of 600 individual women and 200 members of producing groups with consideration further field verification by ILO IP (SMEPS) will also filter the final list .
- ILO through SMEPS, conduced field verification and assisted the list in the target governorates. The final verified list which includes only 465 individual women and 224 members of producing groups approved by ILO to be trained.

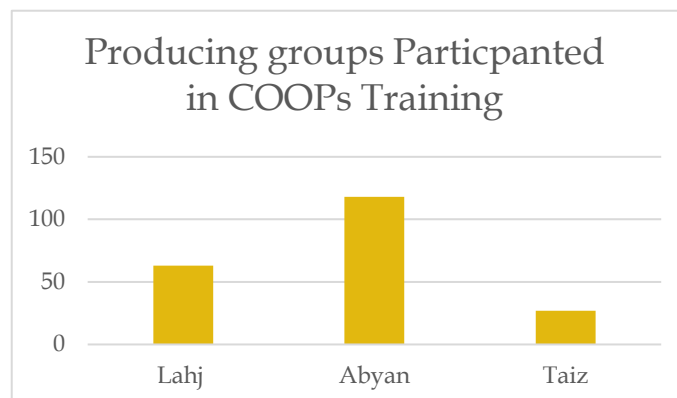


Delivering the training

Think.Coop and Start.Coop

- The programme completed training of 207 Participants selected from agricultural producer groups on the adapted training tools “Think.Coop and Start.Coop”. The training conducted by ILO trainers for 12 working days. The training focused on providing the participants with required knowledge which help them to improve their work through establishing and launching a cooperative . At the end of the 12days, the participants are expected to know:
 - ✓ what a cooperative is (values and principles, differences from other forms of organizations and enterprises etc.) ,

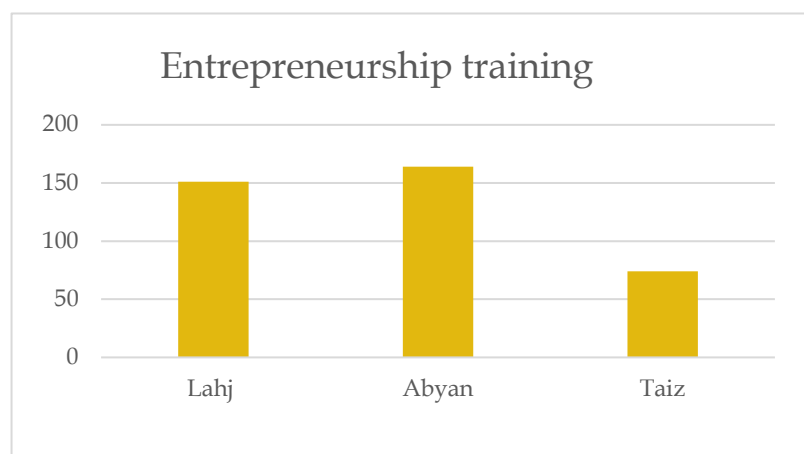
- ✓ the specific benefits and challenges related to cooperative model compared to other types of enterprises or economic organizations; and
- ✓ Be able to make an informed and conscious decision of whether a cooperative might be a suitable business option for the participant.
- ✓ Identify the core members of the cooperative
- ✓ Define cooperative business idea
- ✓ Research the feasibility of cooperative business idea
- ✓ Prepare cooperative business plan
- ✓ Decide on the organizational set-up of cooperative



- Based on the training, the participants worked in groups to develop ideas for their potential cooperatives, Research the feasibility of business idea and drafted business plan.

Entrepreneurship training:

- The programme completed training of 370 Participants selected from individual rural women on the ILO training entrepreneurship “I Own a Small Business” and “My First Business”.
- It’s worth mentioning that the fund third installment was transferred quite late; therefore, the activities were implemented in southern governorates only considering that the implementation in the north will take more time in getting permits from SCMCHA. In addition, FAO’s implementation was delayed in the north; hence affecting ILO’s activities which primarily relay on FAO BNFs.



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

Indicator	Target	Progress Against targets			Notes
		Reporting period	Cumulative total	% of achievement	
# of participants in Food/Cash for Assets interventions	12,950	7,970	18,694	144%	More HH targeted with saved money from other activities
# of beneficiaries benefitting from FFA cash/food transfers	90,650	55,790	97,972	108%	More HH targeted with saved money from other activities
# of community-based assets restored and/or established (disaggregated by type)	325	62	253	77%	Some assets costed more than initial budgeted
Total amount of cash transferred to targeted beneficiaries	\$6,992,500	4,000,000	7,614,051	108%	More cashed transferred to beneficiaries with saved money from other operational activities
Proportion of the population in targeted communities reporting benefits from an enhanced livelihood asset base through FFA using Asset Benefit Index	50 %		67%		
# of community Market assets restored through 3x6	70	2	38		Limited markets identified for rehabilitation
# of beneficiaries participating in CFW activities through 3x6	7,550	630	6,855		

WFP, under ERRY II, designed and implemented its resilience and livelihoods activities in 13 districts across five governorates of the country to mainly contribute to the output 1 of the joint programme - Community livelihoods, productive assets and food security are improved to strengthen resilience and self-reliance. WFP's interventions aimed at contributing to enhance food security and livelihood status of the targeted households and communities by investing in creating/rehabilitating productive assets and skill development trainings. All asset creation/rehabilitation activities and skill/income generation trainings were implemented through WFP's Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) and Food Assistance for Trainings (FFT).



WFP engaged 55,7907 people to work in 62 different assets through FFA and 700 People in different income/skill generation trainings through FFT. 20 percent of the total participants for WFP's FFA and FFT activities were women.

More than 50,000 people indirectly benefitted from the assets created and rehabilitated by WFP in 2021. WFP transferred approximately USD 4 Million to its targeted beneficiaries with the aim of supporting their immediate food security needs. More specifically below are the key achievements made by WFP in 2021:

- Constructed and rehabilitated 13 water harvesting schemes. The completion of the water harvesting schemes have increased more than 6,000 people's access and availability to clean drinking water.
- Constructed and rehabilitated 20 road projects – approximately 35 km in length. The completion of the road projects has increased access to markets, water sources, schools, hospitals and other basic services for more than 18,700 people.
- Constructed and rehabilitated 10 school buildings. The construction of new classrooms has accommodated more students in better building facilities. This has also contributed to increasing the number of students in the schools.
- Completed five sanitation projects. More than 7,000 people have benefited from the sanitation projects related to construction and rehabilitation of latrines.
- Land reclamation activities implemented under four projects to support agricultural sector and to contribute to protecting environment.
- Constructed 10 Shelters benefiting more than 8,000 people.

Coverage

In a close coordination with the authorities and implementing UN agencies, WFP implemented its FFA and FFT activities in 13 districts from five governorates of the country. Below is the table reflecting WFP's coverage for ERRY II implementation.

Governorate	Districts
Al-Hudaydah	Bajel, Az Zuhrah, and Al Marawi'ah
Hajjah	Bani Qais, Abs, and Aslem
Abyan	Khanfar, Zingibar, and Lawder
Lahj	Tur Al-Bahah, Tuban, and Almusimeer
Taiz	Ash Shamayatayn

Implementation partnership

WFP implemented its FFA and FFT activities with six cooperating partners (CP) namely Islamic Relief Yemen (IRY) in Bajel, Al-Hudaydah governorate, CARE International in Abyan and Lahj governorates, Relief International (RI) in Hajjah, Save the Children (SCI) in Ash Shamayatayn, Taiz governorate, and in Az Zuhrah, Al-Hudaydah governorate, and Field Medical Foundation (FMF) in Almusimeer, Lahj governorate, Building Foundation for Development (BFD) in Al Marawi'ah, Al-Hudaydah governorate. WFP provided training sessions to the mentioned partners in 2021 on environmental and social safeguards (ESS) to build/strengthen cooperating partners' capacity to manage different environmental and social safeguards while implementing FFA activities.

Targeting

Through support from the CPs, using the standard targeting criteria, community consultations were conducted in the targeted districts to select participants and the community assets. The community assets for construction and rehabilitation were selected based on community needs while the participants were targeted using the vulnerability indicators mainly related to food security. Similarly, the participants for trainings were also selected using standard food security vulnerability indicators.

Cash transfer

WFP distributed approximately USD 4 Million to 7,970 participants. WFP used Al Kuraimi Bank as its financial service provider to distribute cash to the beneficiaries. The banks distributed cash to WFP's beneficiaries from its branches and the designated mobile cash distribution outlets. Protection challenges were considered while identifying the mobile distribution outlets to ensure that the outlets are secure and easily accessible to the beneficiaries.

Immediate Impact of WFP's interventions under ERRY II:

- WFP's intervention addressed acute food needs of the targeted households with the monthly cash transfer.
- In addition to increasing access to food, WFP's activities increased targeted households'/communities' access to basic services such as health centres, schools, and markets through the construction and rehabilitation of community assets.
- The project contributed to increasing agricultural production by constructing/rehabilitating productive assets in agricultural sector resulting to increased water availability.
- The trainings enhanced/developed skills of the targeted youth and women. These trainings are expected to increase income generation opportunities for the FFT targeted youth and women.

- The project contributed to social cohesion through the implementation of participatory approach in selecting assets for the project.
- The cash injected into the communities has also broadly stimulated the recovery of local economy.
- Transfer of skills from skilled labors to unskilled labors, as the latter are the main beneficiaries in the projects.

On the other hand, the focus of UNDP under result 1.2 was to support targeted communities, women and youths, in particular, improving access to income through emergency employment and market rehabilitation—the project has continued to monitor the progress on enterprise development as well as impact in sustaining them. Emergency employment aims to provide immediate income to meet households need. Study results that targeted 2,275 beneficiaries in south Yemen who gave micro-narratives at both baseline and end-line reveal that over the course of the programme, there has been a shift away from salary towards self-employment as an income source



for the matched beneficiaries. This is more pronounced among women than men. The emergency employment modality is labor-intensive cash for work (C4W) designed to maintain and preserve market assets through rehabilitation works, which will, in turn, contribute to preserving and returning assets into service and cover community demands. UNDP and its partners adopted a community-based participatory approach for beneficiary's identification, registration, assets selection, and ensured full engagement with the local community and local authorities. The rehabilitation of markets has created a positive impact which has improved access to markets for the enterprises and consumers whom we saved the hardship of going to distant markets to purchase life necessities such as food items, which improves their food security levels. Whereas business and skill development have focused on diversifying alternative livelihood



opportunities, the establishment of enterprises has led to generating sustained income. The third-party monitoring and ROM assessment highlights that emergency employment, business skill, and enterprise establishment have supported beneficiaries to graduate from their vulnerabilities, where 64% indicated an improvement in their livelihoods. As per the annual target of cash for work and markets rehabilitation, the progress has been a bit on the slower side. In total, 630 beneficiaries at the time of reporting were engaged in emergency employment with an average of ten working days with a wage rate of \$6/day, generating a combined income of \$37,800 and resulting in the rehabilitation of 2 market centres. The cash-for-work activities were tailored to suit the nature of women and their physical capabilities, considering the societal customs and traditions that do not allow women to engage in all the works performed by men, noting that 92% of TPM respondents stated gender suitability of work.

The project has managed to rehabilitate two local markets and associated infrastructure through emergency employment activities. The improvement in the market conditions has been critical and managed to reach more than 5,000 individuals. For example, in Bajel (north), the Bajel Market was handed over to the community and local authority. The market has benefitted villages and traders and has improved the storage capacities as well. There are 5000 individuals connected with this market and live in nearby areas. Similarly, 37 community and market assets rehabilitated under the project benefited 100,000 individuals including vendors, traders, suppliers and communities. The rehabilitation of community and market assets has brought many economic, health, and environmental benefits. For example, Ja'ar's dilapidated market, which became a dumping ground, has raised the concern of a potential disease outbreak. As the only market available in a highly populated area, the market has been rehabilitated, where internal and external cleaning works took place 20 tons of waste removed, internal and external sewerage networks rehabilitated, a water grid extended, allowing wholesalers to return to the market and achieving up to 30% increase in sales. Environmental wise, the monitored rehabilitation activities didn't have any adverse impacts on the environment, in the opposite, some of noticed positive impacts were protecting agricultural lands from erosion through the construction of Gabions. 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. 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, ILO).

Indicator	Target	Progress Against targets			Notes
		Reporting period	Cumulative total	% of achievement	
# of beneficiaries who received business development and life skills training	9,550	1,499	6,757	70%	
# of microbusinesses established and operational after 6 months	4,974	3,461	5,136	103%	
# of targeted beneficiaries who have improved access to income, business competency and have improved their livelihoods (disaggregated by gender & age)	4,836				<i>The indicator would be measured at the endline stage.</i>
# of ToTs trained on business training packages (MFB & semiliterate)	125	0	68	54%	<i>A refresher TOT was planned and arranged for 50 trainers; however, it wasn't conducted due to security challenges.</i>
% of beneficiaries who are able to graduate to sustainable	70%				<i>It will be measured at the endline stage</i>

livelihoods as a result of post-CfW activities of self-employment and employability					
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Under the above result, the focus 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, where all the cash for work beneficiaries have received business skill training. The combination of in kind and cash support and extensive capacity building and skills enhancement with coaching and follow ups helped to establish micro

business that would sustain after the project closure. UNDP beneficiaries acquired seven days of training. In total, one thousand four hundred ninety- nine individuals have been trained so far. The training focused on enhancing the cash management, marketing strategy, value chain and financial risks. Different training methods included online/ digital-platform sessions, self-study methodology with modules



developed by the ILO trainers intended for participants who had no access to online learning, and class training through ILO Trainers with small size groups to ensure social distancing. Also, other protective measures (PPE, Hand washing facilities, etc.) were also in Place. 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.

Total of one thousand four hundred ninety-nine developed business proposals which were reviewed by ILO trainers who provided technical assistance and knowledge on assessing the feasibility of the businesses plans in the local context as well as cost- benefit analysis together with the applicant. After that, evaluation/vetting committee which consists of four ILO trainers and staff of the implementing partner selected and prioritized the applications based on participants training results, business type, location, gender, and social benefit. Full selection process was in coordination with UNDP livelihood project staff.

Soon after the training, the project has supported in the creation of entrepreneurship in primarily seven sectors and in total 3461 businesses were created. The recent third - party monitoring report has highlighted that more than 95% of the microenterprises are functional and generating profits. As per the report, the interviewed beneficiaries reported that the financial support (capital) received by them ranged from YER 338,000 to YER 341,000 each, which is equivalent to USD 563 to USD 568. The interviewed beneficiaries stated that the current capital of their established microenterprises had reached (YER 1,200,000) which is equivalent to USD 2,000 and that indicates that their capital had increased by 239 percent [1]. In total, UNDP invested 2,076,600 USD as start-up grants for business creation, benefiting indirectly over than 24,227 people.



As reported in 2020, the project has developed and piloted the first business to business (B2B) and business to customer (B2C) online platform for MSMEs to improve access to the market. This platform provides virtual market solution which would help Yemeni businesses to recover and enhance their capacity to expand and grow. The project in collaboration with UNDP Bangladesh, has taken the initiative forward to scale up the platform to another level. The collaboration with UNDP Bangladesh would result into connecting transboundary markets such as in Bangladesh, United Kingdom, Djibouti, Somalia, and Ethiopia. It would be for the first time where the market would make an outreach to international level. A full-scale launch would be organized soon at national level.



To help beneficiaries market their products, increase profits, hence improve their livelihoods, an Exhibition (bazaar) was organized in Aden for ERY II livelihoods' beneficiaries with presence of local authorities. Total of 150 members of Oxfam and CARE, UNDP partners, had the opportunity to display their products for sale, and successfully, were linked to private sector, local suppliers, and microfinance institutions (MFIs) that participated in this bazaar.

BASSMA SPASSION

"I realized, nothing is impossible," Bassima declares. "Not only did this project economically empowered me, but also gave me a leading role in my household. Now, I can say that I am a

decision-maker. I can study whenever I want, I work out of the house late at night if necessary, and most importantly, I plan for my future independently,” she announces happily.”

Bassima was working as a volunteer midwife in one of the village clinics, a half hour walks from her home. after she successfully completed a three-year diploma in midwifery, Bassima struggle to equip her maternity clinic and start her career, but she never gave up hope. Bassima joined a 10-day training course on business management, and then received a US\$ 600 seed grant to purchase equipment for her clinic. Now, she helps deliver 10 babies per month, charging only what the family can afford unconditional fee.



ILO has 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 at providing basic business management skills to low-income vulnerable youth and women with limited literacy include pertinent topics such as life skills, basic financial management skills, conflict management and critical thinking. To this end, 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 number of trainers on “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.

ILO conducted two TOT workshops on “I Own a Small Business” 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.

ILO followed up and provide continues guidance to the trainers on “My first business training package “MFB “” to ensure quality of provided training within project.

As result of, up to 3500 individuals’ beneficiaries - benefited from C4W activities and apprenticeship intervention - trained by ILO trainers and through ILO business training packages (MFB and I own a small business).

Small Machines, Big Ambitions

Sewing machines, are the first thing that catches the eye as the visitors walk into Asrar and Fatma's work studio, which is located in Serar, Abyan governorate. Scratches and marks on sewing machines show years of heavy work. Asrar has been the breadwinner for her family, a mother of three children, who started learning sewing seven years ago to support herself and her children when the war erupted in Yemen back in 2015.

"We started from scratch; we had nothing but hopeful wishes to be able to support ourselves." Sitting in her machine for long hours made the difference between abject poverty and survival, providing her with a steady income to support her children. In addition to providing her income in times of need, it was a godsend. the small sewing enterprise which Asrar has started with support from the project It liberated her and allowed her to grow independent in the light of the war conditions.

Accompanied by Asrar, her co-worker Fatma, a widow for five years now, has benefited from the grant. "It's not just a machine; it is something that empowered me to earn for myself and my only son."

Living away from big cities and towns in Yemen, Fatma and Asrar are role model women who, despite economic and social challenges, they proved women’s great potential in running and growing small businesses that serve them, their families, and the whole community. The noisiness of their machines and the smell of the heat on the fabric didn't not only



make up their life but also provided them with new beginnings. Yemeni women's struggles aren't limited by time or place, but women in the rural area suffer the lack of basic necessities and have to bear the burden of being cut out from transportation and educational and health facilities. However, Asrar and Fatma proudly expressed how they were growing despite the odds, and how people began to learn about them and request for their service.

"We started exporting; we are becoming popular, people want our work, we design dresses, shirts, pants everything. people started to hear about us," Fatma said They also expressed their big dreams to grow the studio in a few years, and that no matter what happens, they will keep working hard and dreaming of reaching their goals. "In a few years I want us to go big, big, and beautiful" Fatma said

Activity Result 1.4: Sustainable livelihoods opportunities area created in the post-Cash for Work phase to support employability through on-the-job training (ILO).

Indicator	Target	Progress Against targets			Notes
		Reporting period	Cumulative total	% of achievement	
# of trainees with improved employability skills through informal apprenticeship scheme	2,000	1,232	1,822	91%	
% of vulnerable youth/women reporting improved income at least three months after completion of the training	70%	-	-		The indicator would be measured at the endline stage.

Under this activity, ILO applied indirect implementation modality through national implementing partners, who have been selected based on a competitive procurement process. The three selected partners are: 1) Mayar Foundation for Development (MFD), 2) Ghadaq for Development. 3) Youth Leadership development Foundation (YLDF).

For first batch of apprenticeship with 640 apprentices 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 Craftsperson.

For the second batch of apprenticeship program implementation for 1270 apprentices, Ghadaq has been selected for implementation of the apprenticeship program in Lahj , Abyan and Taiz, while YLDF has been selected to implement in Hajja and Hodieda .



The assignment for Ghadaq is to increase access to apprenticeship program by 870 vulnerable youth in Lahj , Abyan and Taiz while building the capacity of 435 Master Craftspersons in market demand-driven sectors so as to enhance and facilitate meaningful and sustainable employment opportunities. Similarly, the assignment for YLDF is to increase access to apprenticeship program by 400 vulnerable youth in Hajja and Hodieda while building capacity of 200 Master Craftsperson.

In both batch implementation and 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.

The ILO IPs coordinated with WFP IPs to get the list of beneficiaries who will be involved in the post cash for work and FFA activities. This is to select Up to 50 % of the beneficiaries for the apprenticeship program from WFP lists under Food for Asset (FFA) components. However, the remaining have been selected from vulnerable youth and women in coordination with local authorities in the targeted areas.

The Craftsperson's training materials on learner-centered pedagogy, competency-based training, and assessment (CBT/A), and OSH have been updated and translated into English language. Accordingly, 970 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.

Then, under apprenticeship program, ten priority occupations have been identified that have higher chances of creating job opportunities. Accordingly, the project has been developed Competency-based Training (CBT) curricula materials for the ten occupations. The developed curricula are in the following occupations: 1- Solar system installation and maintenance (three training programs in: small / home systems, advance and commercial systems, and solar systems for water pumps) 2- Handcrafts production including three sub-occupations: crochet, palm products, and handloom fabrication "Maawiz". 3- Air conditions maintenance, Photography, home appliances maintenance and Beekeeping and honey production. 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.



1822 apprentices completed class-based training 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 environments for all beneficiaries during activities.

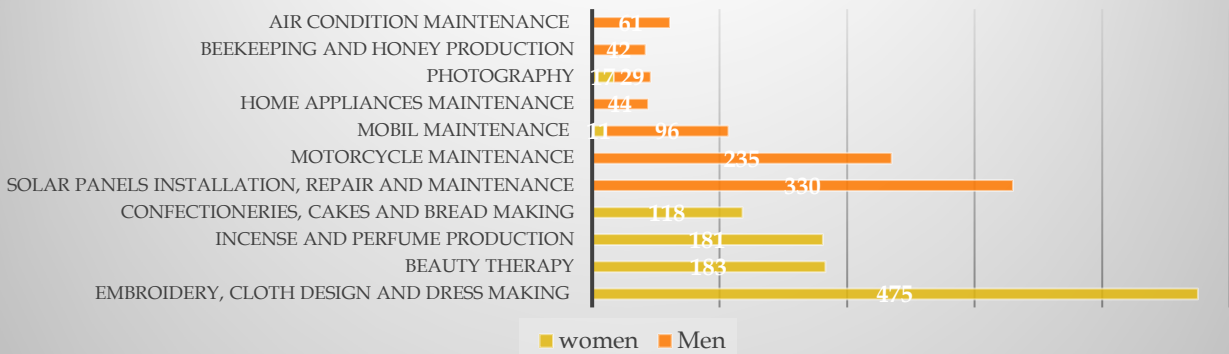
On-the-job training at workplaces has completed (up to 300 training hours in target governorates. exceptionally on Hodeida due to security situation and based on authorities request the on-job training conducted in TVET institutes with participation of their craftsperson. 330 out of 1822 individuals have been trained to improve their employability skills in solar energy micro-enterprises as part of apprenticeship program implementation.



Both the first and the second batches of apprentices have been completed their apprenticeship programme and acquiring the required knowledge that help them to start and improve their own businesses. The graduate apprentices got their certificates which are accredited by TVET. 50% of graduated apprentices from first batch and 100% of graduated apprentices from second batch got the toolkits, which could help them in doing their businesses in the market and earning a sustainable income.



Distribution apprentices per occupations and gender



As result, 1822 apprentices have been completed the program (41 % are women), the drop out from the program were less than 5 %.

Many of stories among the participant showed significant improvement in their skills and ability to work in the trained occupation. some of apprentices started working in the workplaces that were train in and they earn daily or monthly allowance also some started their own small businesses.



Activity Result 1.5: Private sector capacity is strengthened to contribute to emergency crisis response and job creation (UNDP, ILO, FAO)

Under this result, ILO conducted training for 15 Participants from private sector on “Business Continuity Planning and Resilience” to help entrepreneurs/SME owners and managers anticipate, identify, assess, and prepare responses to crisis that threaten not only their financial status but also the sustainability and survival of their businesses. The training was conducted in coordination with Chambers of Commerce in the targeted governorates including Sana’a and Aden.

Action 1.5.4 Reinforce and promote pilot rural small-scale entrepreneurs (SSEs) created by the project (including milk collectors, women-headed households producing home-processed healthy traditional dairy products, women-headed Households with backyard sheep / goat fattening and producers of feeds and fodders) with productive assets and training on marketing.

The names of individual women and women's groups engaged in dairy and fattening were provided to ILO. ILO trained on business development services, marketing skills, savings schemes and diversification of livelihoods based on the ILO/FAO training and resource kit.

1200 beneficiaries involved in dairy and livestock fattening value chains were nominated and trained by ILO based on the ILO training models. The trainings were conducted in southern governorates with number of persons trained based on ILO training models are as follows:

- 600 individuals were trained based on the ILO "Business training" model.
- 40 Productive Groups, each comprised of 5 members (200 trainees) were trained using ILO "Cooperative Training" model.

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

The output has contributed to resuming access to energy for public institutions and facilities and has set the platform for decentralized access to energy.

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 (UNDP)

Indicator	Target	Progress Against targets			Notes
		Reporting period	Cumulative total	% of achievement	
# of public institution facilities (health, education and district offices) supported with solar systems	182	70	187	102%	
# of community productive assets (MSME) supported through introduction of solar energy	41	22	22	53%	FAO was unable to have nominations for 19 productive associations on time.
# of HHs supported through introduction of solar energy (disaggregated by female-headed households)	11,000	7,560	7,560	68%	Because of delay of SCMACHA permits issued
% of targeted public institution facilities (health, schools and	70%	-	-		The indicator would be measured at

district offices) and systems (water) have resumed and improved critical services					<i>the endline stage.</i>
% of trained and certified women and youth in solar system installation who have adopted solar innovation	60% (700 trainees)	311	102%, 713	101%	

Under the above results there are six major activities supported by EU and Sida:

- Install solar energy systems for social services to improve service delivery.
- Install solar energy for vulnerable households.
- Develop solar energy solutions for productive assets and community production facilities to reinforce livelihood resilience of vulnerable rural communities.
- 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.
- UNDP expected to provide 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 42 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 ERY 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. In total, approximately 250,000 direct and indirect beneficiaries have

benefitted in three governorates: Hajjah, Hodeidah and Al Taizia, with the installation of solar system facilities.

The development of solar solutions for productive assets and communities' production facilities is to build synergy with FAO. FAO has provided the specification and requirements to support the productive assets both south and in the north. Successfully, 22 dairy processing units were provided with solar systems.

In the districts of Bajel and Marawi'ah of Hodeidah governorate, 150 young men and women were trained on solar systems installation and maintenance, 20 of them were contracted and assigned the responsibility of assembling solar lanterns using environmentally friendly local resources, 10 in Bagel and 10 in Al Marawah. Within 5 days, technicians installed the solar systems before distributing them to the beneficiary families. A total of 900 lanterns were produced and distributed to 900 vulnerable HHs. Prior to distribution, raising awareness brochures and posters were distributed to local residents of Bajel to raise their awareness of the importance of solar energy as an alternative efficient source of power.

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).

The result is focused on promoting solar microbusiness, business connection and network among rural and urban dealers, communities including youth and women. The result also enhances solar energy capacity building, including vocational training on solar energy application uses, specifications design, installation and maintenance through microbusiness associations and private sector.

Output2: Vulnerable communities benefit from solar energy solutions for sustainable livelihoods opportunities and enhanced social service delivery					
Immediate Result 2.2: Women and youth play an active role in the provision of solar energy in their communities through solar microenterprises (UNDP, ILO)					
Indicator	Target	Progress Against targets			Notes
		Reporting period	Cumulative total	% of achievement	
# of solar micro-enterprises established (disaggregated by gender)	400	483	543	135%	
# of trainees reporting improvement in their employability skills in solar energy micro-enterprises	250	50	330	132%	
% of targeted MSME have benefitted through solar energy solutions	70%				<i>The indicator would be measured at the endline stage.</i>
% of solar entrepreneurs who are able to access financial institutions and have expanded their businesses for profit	20%				<i>The indicator would be measured at the endline stage.</i>

The project has created 483 microbusinesses in the area of solar where targeted beneficiaries were able to establish for income generation activities. The solar shop in the community offers panels, battery and electrical wires to support in solarization. Majority of the businesses are able to earn more than USD\$100/month. During the field visit it was observed that, these businesses have become a solar franchise in the local community and supports the sale of retailers or wholesale dealers. The connectivity with dealers has also helped the beneficiaries to improve upon their capital asset and acquire more solar items to be sold in the local market. The project has trained total 311 individual as community technicians who would support the solar system repair in case of any breakdown. These technicians are available at the doorstep and health center, schools, public offices, productive assets, and markets can avail the expert services from them. The technical training was supported by the certified and trained trainer who provided the in-house and on-job training to the participants to learn the basics of operation and maintenance of solar system.



Photo Credit: ERRY JP: A group of ten youth running a solar microgrid station in Abyan, 2021

Under result 2.2, ILO contributed to support youth to play an active role in the provision of solar energy in their communities through developing Solar system installation and maintenance curricula which covers small / home systems, advance and commercial systems, and solar systems for water pumps). In addition, 330 youth have been trained to improve their employability skills in solar energy micro-enterprises as part of apprenticeship program implementation.

Recycle Waste Today for A Better Tomorrow



Photo Credit: ERRY JP: Waste-to-Energy Plant, Lahj, 2021

WASTE TO ENERGY: A UNIQUE PUBLIC-PRIVATE BUSINESS SOLUTION

In 2021, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with support from the European Union, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, and UNDP's SDG Climate Facility, established Yemen's first-ever Waste to Energy (WtE) plant in Lahj governorate. Part of a larger pilot, this initiative aims to bring the community, institutions and science together to reduce waste and generate affordable energy. The WtE initiative also helps communities tackle the behavioral problems of waste management by promoting and facilitating community "Cash for Trash", purchase points, where individuals can sell their waste for cash.

But this is not only an income generation opportunity as the purchased waste will serve as fuel for the WtE plant to produce affordable electricity. By making the WtE plants dependent upon solid waste collected by the community, not only are income opportunities created, but the residents can enjoy cleaner and healthier living environments. This approach ensures longevity and sustainability as a circular relationship evolves between waste collectors and the WtE plant operations.

An inter-dependent system, this initiative was designed to support local authorities in delivering public services while also linking micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) that collect and sort solid waste and produce and distribute the energy with considerable private sector

investment The project promotes economic growth and job creation to build back better and underpin a more resilient post-crisis community.

The WtE plant was established through a unique partnership and collaboration between UNDP Yemen, Ministry of Water and Environment, Ministry of International Planning and Cooperation (MoPIC), Environment Protection Authority (Aden and Lahj), District Authority and Electricity Department (Lahj), the SEHAB TECH from the Yemeni private sector.

RECYCLE WASTE TODAY FOR BETTER TOMORROW

The WtE business model is designed to treat a variety of types of solid waste differently. Close to 65 per cent of waste in Yemen is organic, whereas the remaining consists of 10 per cent plastic, 7 per cent paper, 6 per cent metal, 1 per cent glass and 11 per cent other products.

For this initiative, the food waste will be treated to produce organic manure, whereas paper, agriculture waste, saw dust/chips and other types of degradable municipal waste will be gasified to produce electricity. The bi-product – tar and ashes – can also be repurposed for construction and producing bricks.

For plastic waste, a plastic granule machine will recycle high- and low-density plastics, turning them in to high-value granules, which can be used to produce products such as tableware.

Finally, the initiative aims to reduce the burden of waste while economically benefitting conflict affected Yemenis through one wholistic socio-economic model. The WtE initiative not only contributes to the development of a low-carbon society but will also generate approximately 7,500 jobs for vulnerable people in rural communities.



This initiative will improve the living conditions of vulnerable people by offering several business opportunities as well as reducing the quantity of waste placed in landfills by 70 per cent, which also leads to improved health and results in a more vibrant, cleaner future for all.

The energy supply resulting from the treatment of the solid waste is stable and reliable, and able to power key public services such as health clinics, schools and more at an affordable price – 16 cents per hour by comparison with 160 cents per hour for fossil fuel.

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

The output has contributed to mobilizing communities, key leaders and local authorities in addressing the basic services issues through participatory approach.

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

Action 3.1.1: Strengthening the existing fifteen (15) water user associations (WUAs) established during ERRY phase one and creation / reactivation of 15 WUAs for efficient water and land management.

Action 3.1.2: Support to twenty WUAs and farmer' association with 20 equipment of 20 wells with solar pumps for irrigation as well as with irrigation kits for promoting efficient techniques for irrigation of crops / vegetables and fodders.

Water assessments conducted in the in six governorates (Sana'a, Al Hudaydah, Hajjah, Taiz, Abyan and Lahj). The criteria for the site and beneficiaries' selection were identified for each intervention and discussed with the local authorities and communities. In cooperation with



agricultural production activities and based on the agreed selection criteria, 100 sites (with total area of 25 Hectares) were selected (40 sites southern and 60 sites in northern programme areas. The total number of the beneficiaries are 5900 smallholder farmers were identified and registered as beneficiaries for drip irrigation system. The drip irrigation kits were delivered and installed in all locations (refer to Table 2 in the report).

Regarding the rehabilitation of the irrigation water infrastructures. The water assessment identified and recommended Batais Dam for rehabilitation. Due to exposure of the dam and all irrigation facilities in Wadi Bana to huge floods in 2020, several spate irrigation infrastructures in the wadi, which is an important agricultural area were destroyed. The big damages were in Batais dam which controlled all the floods flows in the wadi and upstream wadi areas. The Batais dam controls all irrigation structures in Wadi Bana and estimated 40,000 hectares of agricultural areas irrigated by the annual floods over all the wadis. Designs, Bill of Quantities (BoQs) and technical specification for rehabilitation of Batais dam were developed, cleared and contractor identified through a competitive procurement process. The rehabilitation works is ongoing and expected to be completed in the coming weeks.

With respect to rehabilitation of water structures in AlHaymah AlKharejiah district in Sana'a Governorate, technical conducted and designs, BOQs and technical specification developed. The implementation modality proposed for the rehabilitation of five water structures was CFW and supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MAI), the work well supervised. Procurement of construction materials and issuance of LOA with MAI was halted because of concerns the action would not be delivered by the project end date.



Under this action, the plan was to procure and install solar pump systems to support irrigation in 25 sites in Abyan, Lahj, Taiz and Al Hudaydah identified during the water assessment. Criteria for selection of sites for the water pumps were developed in cooperation with the MAI and discussed with the local authorities and communities. Technical data were collected for each location included type of well, total depth, dynamic water level, static water level, discharge of the well, crops irrigated by the well, type of irrigation system, irrigated area by the well, number of beneficiaries and the water requirement for each crop. The data and information collected help in the design for each site and development of technical specification, Bill of quantities (BOQs) and installation requirements. Procurement process was initiated, and suppliers selected through competitive bidding process. However, because the solar water pumps are sourced from outside Yemen, would take not less than six months for delivery to be made (longer after the programme end date), the orders for the water pumps were therefore not issued.

Action 3.1.3: Provide technical training to WUAs on good practices good practices of water efficiency and new techniques of irrigation.

As a result of water assessment, the existing Water User Association (WUAs) were identified to be reactivated in southern governorates, training was conducted in Aden for 12 WUAs from Abyan (6), Lahj (4) and Taiz/Ash Shaymayateen (2) and other participants from the Agricultural Cooperative Union (ACU) as well as technical specialist identified from the Agriculture Offices of the three governorates, representatives from the Agriculture and Fisheries (MAIF) in Aden and districts authorities of three governorates. Total of 45 participants attended the two-day training. The training achieved the following.

- 12 WUAs reactivated and their roles in water management and food security increased.
- Knowledge and understanding irrigation practices, ground water information and solutions to challenges faced by farmers in irrigation practises outlined.
- WUAs awareness on use of drip irrigation systems at households' level practically demonstrated.

- Understanding the importance of data and information about the water resources, irrigation practices and ground water information and the problems facing farmers in term of water management and irrigation practises.
- Strengthen the relationship between the WUAs and Local Authorities as well as the related Entities from the Government officials, and the importance of work together and complete each other's to have a better water resources management.

Planned training for WUAs in northern governorates was not achieved because the authority did not grant permits for the training to be conducted and nominated WUA members were not cleared to participate in the training.

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)

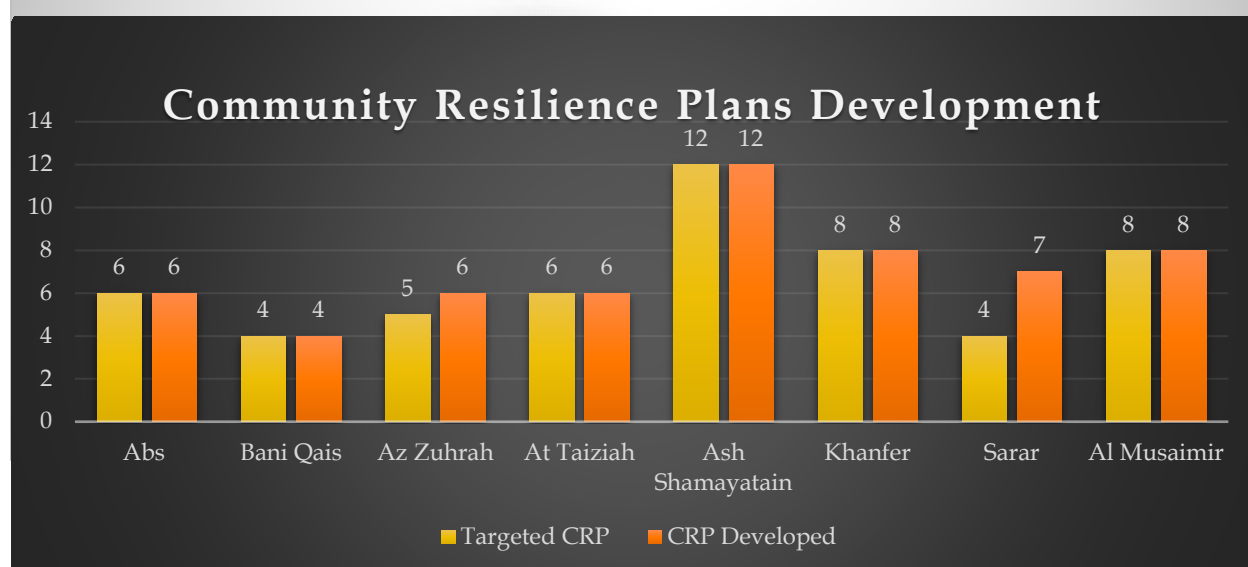
The result has focused on the implementation of block grants resulted from community dialogues and conflict resolution as well as priorities selected by the community through the resilience plan.

Output 3: Communities and local authorities have enhanced capacities to respond to conflict and gender sensitive priorities needs					
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)					
Indicator	Target	Progress Against targets			Notes
		Reporting period	Cumulative total	% of achievement	
# of gender-sensitive conflict analysis conducted	7	4	4	57%	
# of insider mediators recruited and trained to facilitate peaceful conflict resolution (disaggregated by gender)	120	0	140	116%	
# of conflict-mitigating initiatives supported	31	28	29	93%	
# of SDCs established and operational	49	0	57	116	
# of community resilience plans developed (and operationalized) at sub-district level	49	0	57	116	
# of selected priority interventions identified under the community resilience plans which have been implemented (disaggregated by village and sub-district)	135 and 53 respectively	66 (32 at sub district level and 34 at village level)	216		
% target communities have enhanced service delivery support through participatory approach (LG)	70%				The indicator would be measured at the

					<i>endline stage.</i>
% of target communities with improved access to basic services due to conflict mitigating interventions	70%				<i>The indicator would be measured at the endline stage.</i>

In total 28 conflict resolution plans were implemented to resolve the conflict in the north as well as in south. The focus of the conflict resolution plan was to resolve the conflicts around access to basic services and support communities in overcoming those challenges and enhancing social cohesion. The conflict resolution prioritized interventions related to improving access to water, health and education services. Conflict resolution and implementation has benefited more than 5 governorates and respective communities.

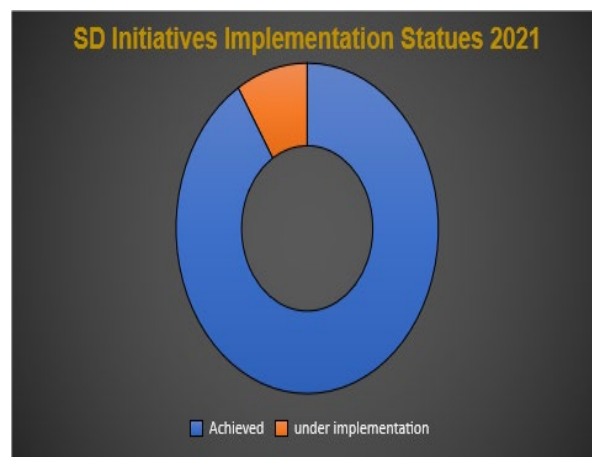
Compact Initiatives (Sector-wise)



As a result of CRP development, 32 sub-district level block grants were initiated across all five targeted governorates. The block grants were identified as a result of the development of resilient plans. The focus of the block grant is to improve access to services. In the block grant initiative, targeted communities contribute in kind to provide the monetized support to the initiative which helps communities. The above graphics present the progress of community resilience plan development since the inception.

The compact initiative suggests that education and life skills are the top most priorities across all the governorates. Water and roads improvements are close to 11% and 20% respectively. The community priority also indicates that, for the affected community, income generation has remained as one of the key way forward to overcome access to service issues as well as income generation.

The chart indicates the status of sub-district level block grant initiatives. More than two-thirds of the initiatives have been completed and the rest would be completed within the stipulated timeline.



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

Output 3: Communities and local authorities have enhanced capacities to respond to conflict and gender sensitive priorities needs					
Activity Result 3.2: 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 (UNDP)					
Indicator	Target	Progress Against targets			Notes
		Reporting period	Cumulative total	% of achievement	
# of DMTs reactivated to restore public service delivery	8	04	8	100%	
# of local authority members trained on planning and development	200	0	204	102%	
# & % of targeted local authorities that are able to revitalize service delivery by implementing and operationalizing recovery plans	8	8	8	100%	8 districts Recovery projects have been implemented with ERRY funding. Preparation & advertisement of tenders for 4 of these projects was done in 2020

Following the interventions, eight district management teams (DMTs) were activated 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 eighty-five local authorities members were trained on planning, budgeting, and implementing recovery initiatives. The training also included tender management and project implementation. DMTs have developed district recovery plan and the implementation started in the beginning of the year. Below table presents the status of the district recovery plan implementation.

Governorate	District	Sector	Projects Details	Remarks
Abyan	Khanfir	Education	Rehabilitation of the District Education Office	Completed
	Sarar	Road	Rehabilitation and Paving of Rahwat Al-Falah - Hama Road	Completed
Lahj	Al Musaymir	Market	Pavement of Al- Musaymir city market and its street the main market in the district center	Completed
Taiz	As Shamayatayn	Road & Market	Pavement and Rehabilitation of some main streets and markets of Alturbah city in As Shamayatayn district	Completed
	At Ta'iziyah	Road & Market	Pavement of Saida Street Market at Mawia junctions	Completed
Al-Hudaydah	Az Zhurah	Health	expanding Az Zuhrah rural hospital	Completed
Hajjah	Abss	Health	build and furnish the Fevers Center (expansion section for febrile treatment)	Completed
	Bani Qa'is	Health	build and furnish the Nutrition and Dietetics Centre	Completed

The progress under the above result is on-track. The progress evaluation under the above result has been done through KAP survey on quarterly basis. KAP is undertaken to examine the most contributing factors on community engagement in improving the access to basic services provisions by sub-district committee. The result of this study will be utilized for the enhancement of service provision process to improve accountability under the project. Below is the highlight of the survey:

48 members of SDCs in 7 districts, 71% males and 29% females (one or two members each SDC members).

KNOWLEGE

The whole samples were answered that they know the purpose of the CRP, know what the priorities are, and they are aware of their role to play in SDCs. Moreover 97% of the samples ensured that the SDCs meeting organized to develop the CRP but what noticed that 20% (half of them are males) answered that the CRPs not reflect the needs of females while 45% of females (and 20% of male supporting females' answered too) answered that the CRP reflects the needs of females., which guide to the result that the females members are having a different level of knowledge on how to reflect their needs and priorities in the plans.

ATTITUDE:

While the members answered that the SDC formed inclusively and represent all community groups. 62% answered that SDC provide equal opportunities to all members while the SDC membership competition, CRP formation, and needs prioritization. 91% answered that SDC offers opportunity to participate in decision-making process at local level while 81% answered that it offers opportunity for women members to participate in decision-making process at local level, the most interesting things that the percentage who answered that it doesn't offer an opportunities for both in decision making are males (30% of males) not females.

While samples were asked that "SDC allocates budget to the identified priorities in an equitable way" some answered with comments that the SD projects don't have specific budget or defined and allocated budget except what is provided through ERRY as well as 14% answered that "SDC doesn't allocate budget to the identified priorities in an equitable way".

As the members of SDCs are from the same SD and relate to its villages, the 97% of the sample answered that SDC is effective in providing information to local community.

PRACTICE:

The sample insured that they have participated in the SDC meetings, as well as 93.3% ensured that females have participated in the SDCs meetings. They are all agree that the female members have active participations during the CRP development, but 14% reflected that female member don't have active participation during SD project implementation. 91% ensured that the final decisions for resilience plan are made on consensus, 3% (all are males) who answered negatively and 6% (all are female) who didn't answer the question. This result is match with the answers collected above in the attitude section while asked if SDC offers opportunity to participate in decision-making process at local level.

73% of answered ensured that they have registered complaint at community level (40% of female answered YES but 60% answered NO), which evidenced the trust and the transparency level reached. It was clear that 66.6% of male and female answered that they were consulted during the budget planning process but noticed that 50% of female said NOT consulted. While some SD was not started implementation the SD project, 96.5% are agreed that the implemented priorities have addressed the identified problems.

As we are looking for the positive impacts as a result of the intervention and support providing, 83% ensured that they think the basic services have improved after the implementation of sub-district grant or will be in the SD which not implemented yet, furthermore 96% thinks that the implemented priorities have benefited everyone or will benefit the communities' groups.

Finally, 93.3% know how much the cost was incurred in the implementation of the sub-district

3. Other Activities Carried out during the Reporting Period:

Annual review workshop and stakeholders' consultation:

Given the COVID-19 measures, the Joint Coordination Unit (JCU) held the Annual Review Workshop virtually via Zoom on April 26, 2021. MoPIC and local authorities in the South attended the meeting, as well as the participating UN agencies and their IPs. The workshop main objective was to discuss the ERRY II achievements & challenges in 2020, which were summarized in a presentation made by the JCU team with the participation of the teams of the UN agencies. This presentation was followed by questions from local authorities and answers from the ERRY II team regarding what could be and could have been done better in the implementation of ERRY II interventions. This discussion was followed by a presentation of the 2021 AWP, in which JCU briefly presented the budget and activities planned for 2021. Also, in preparation for ERRY III proposal, the meeting incorporated consultation with the local authorities regarding the activities of ERRY II that they found to be the most beneficial and would like to be included in ERRY III. The local authorities expressively talked about the ERRY II interventions with great impacts on beneficiaries that they hope would be replicated in ERRY III.

Design and Development of ERRY III

The programme management team has done several exercises to prepare for the scale-up of ERRY Joint Programme. The design of the new phase has been informed by the lessons learned and best practices captured from the first two phases of the programme. The participating agencies engaged their technical teams, IPs, beneficiaries, community committees and relevant stakeholders throughout their internal discussions and consultations in order to formulate impactful interventions based on the clear rationale of the programme. Moreover, joint and bilateral discussions among agencies took place to explore new areas of synergies and strengthen the existing ones. In addition to that, the programme involved local authorities and government partners in the consultation process during the annual review workshop which took place in April 2021. All the inputs provided by the programme various stakeholders contributed to the development of the project document for a new phase of the programme.

Technical Coordination Meetings

Throughout this year, JCU in Aden has continued to hold technical coordination meetings virtually with UN agencies and their IPs in the South on monthly bases – and bi-monthly basis at certain months due to leaves some team members took before/after the Eid Holidays. The overall objectives of these meetings were 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, the ongoing devaluation of the Yemeni Rial against the US Dollar leading to an inflation in the prices of construction materials used in the asset rehabilitation interventions, security inaccessibility in Abyan governorate from time to time, especially in Lawdar district, and certain delays from the local authorities in approving beneficiary lists. In response to these challenges, ERRY II team continued to take COVID-19






preventive measures, such as conducting virtual meetings and wearing masks, practicing social distancing, installing hand sanitization stations. Also, the JCU sub-national coordinator in the South attended several meetings with MOPIC officials and local authorities to facilitate the team coordination procedures between IPs and the local authorities.

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 project's implementation and enabling women to take full advantage of training and services. Throughout the second phase, UNDP promoted women's full participation to ensure that their needs are addressed adequately at all stages of project implementation. UNDP seeks to gather information from women as well as men. The targeting among men and women was equal for all interventions. Particularly important considering the challenge that women's appearance in public is restricted, especially in Lahj and ensuring women 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 project, both men and women found space to engage in the project activities. Gender inequality and the specific barriers faced by Yemeni women and girls in achieving their full potential have long been recognized. Below are the gender inclusion measures that the project has applied to ensure it reaches the gender marker two benchmarks.

-  **Targeting:** the project has targeted more than 40% of women in all of its components to ensure that both men and women get equal opportunities to receive the project's support. In the case of local governance, the targeting is close to 22%. Better targeting provides a level playing field for both genders.
-  **Budgeting:** All the project RPAs have allocated between 2%-3% budget for the capacity building on gender mainstreaming.
-  **Implementation design:** The project components' interventions are participatory and decided by women and men. For example, the cash assistance intervention 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 is featured with the gender-disaggregation classification. UNDP 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 project on women and men in terms of micro story. Longitudinal survey and KAP survey, and quarterly reports are the essential tools to do gender monitoring.
-  **Knowledge management:** the project has created knowledge management products to document the project's 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 project also produces stories every month to ensure process documentation and knowledge management.

4.2 Partnerships

The programme is implemented through IPs that are selected by PUNOs through a competitive process. The IPs are critical for delivery of the programme activities including beneficiaries' selection and registration according to agencies selection criteria, engagement with local authorities for smooth implementation of activities, receipt and distribution of inputs and training of beneficiaries – all done with technical support by PUNOs. While implementation of the programme is through IPs, FAO will continuously engage with MAI for quality assurance of inputs and technical backstopping to IPs during implementation, and ILO engages and works through TEVET.

There is also a range of collaboration with other UN agencies, INGOs, local NOGs and private sector. UNDP, for example, works closely 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. Implementing partners have required capacities to deliver the project; however, most of them, especially local and national organizations, need handholding support in financial and contract management.

4.3 Environmental Considerations

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

- **Implementation design:** livelihoods, solar energy and local governance, and social cohesion components have been designed to preserve the natural and environmental resources. The cash for work activities 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.
- **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 initiatives⁴.

- Innovation, adaptation and mitigation:** the project is currently piloting Waste, Water, Wind, Work and Women (5Ws) using renewable energy application and solutions. The waste to energy initiative 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 ground Picture: Waste to Energy Plant 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 center of innovation and adaptation. Provision of income generation and empowering women has been the key focus of the above pilots.



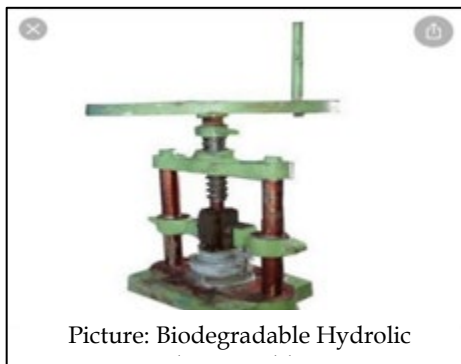
- Hydroponic solutions soilless farming and water conservation:** the project is also piloting hydroponic solutions to promote microbusinesses and subsistence farming. The demand for exotic leafy and vegetables are

Picture: Hydroponic unit

⁴ 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

high in Yemen, and therefore, hydroponic can tackle both water conservation and soil preservation to improve vegetation and forest covers.

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

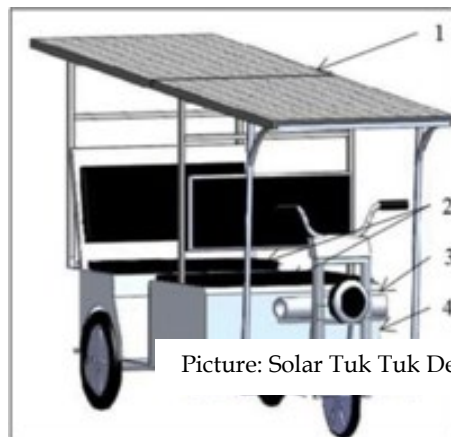


Picture: Biodegradable Hydraulic

through 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 are also working on developing 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 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.



Picture: Solar Tuk Tuk Design

5. Visibility & Communication

Communication and visibility component of [ERRY II JP](#) is one of the program 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](#).
- 35 [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 1 components and ERRY II key achievements was produced, printed, published and disseminated to different stockholders..
- ERRYII progress brief [Issue I](#), [issue II](#), [Issue III](#), [Issue IV](#), [Issue V](#) were designed, published, and disseminated in English and Arabic. All produced progress briefs highlight the joint programme background, key achievements, COVID-19 contribution, and challenges for each reporting period 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](#) were utilized and updated using participating UN agencies platforms to regularly posts and tweets related activities and achievements.
- 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.
- A videography documentation mission were conducted in Lahj , Abyan , and Tai governorate covering 14 success stories for all components of the joint programme.
 - [Skills and Entrepreneurship Development](#)
 - [Livelihood and Emergency Employment](#)
 - [Solar Energy](#)
 - [Agriculture Value Chain](#)
 - [Local Governance](#)
 - [Food Assistance for Assets](#)
 - [Social Cohesion](#)
- 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 Hodaidah and Hajjah for the purpose of collecting communication materials as well as ensuring EU, Sida and Partners visibility.
- Joint Capmagin Commemorating Rural women international day – 2021 was carried out by the four UN agencies under the title [Joint Effort to Build Rural Women’s Resilience in Yemen](#)
- 2 press releases [on WtE & WD initiatives](#) was shared for different external audiences including local and international media.
- 4 infographic designs were disseminated on different social media platforms including [Community Resilience Plan \(CRP\)](#) , ; [Local Governance Interventions](#) ; [Social Cohesion Interventions](#) ; [UNDP’s Waste to Energy Plant](#)
- 6 videos highlight livelihoods, solar energy, local governance, and social cohesion, 1 motion graphic video and 1 vlog on WtE, and 3 radio flashes on WtE and behavioral awareness.
- A successful launch event of the WtE plant project has taken place in Lahj with the presence of ERRY II stakeholders. The event was covered in many local social media channels and outlets:
- A web subpage was created for WtE Plant Project and that gives good space to share the project information, progress, achievements and related communication products with respective audience and donors [Waste-to-Energy Plant Project | UNDP in Yemen](#)
- Different long & short [videos](#) were produced for all components highlighting impact stories , , testimonies, and photos for different beneficiaries of the joint programme. These videos were published on participating UN agencies social media platforms and has achieved great impressions and interactions by internal and external audiences.

6. Monitoring & Evaluation

The programme has placed noteworthy emphasis on the implementation of ERRY II M&E system so as to consistently and effectively monitor implementation of the programme's activities and evaluate its results. The following activities were carried out during this reporting period as per the M&E plan:

- A joint third party monitoring was conducted by a specialized TPM consulting company during quarter one and two of 2021. The TPM aims at providing an independent perspective on the programme implementation and achieved results as well as extending the reach of the programme to the areas where the programme staff cannot access due to security constraints and COVID-19 imposed measures. The TPM company carried out assurance activities including quality validation of the implemented activities at their different stages, verification of data and reports on progress, fiduciary aspects of the implemented activities, accessibility and awareness of the feedback and complaint systems, and the emerging impact of implemented activities. Additionally, the TPM touched on gender and social related issues as well as application of COVID-19 preventive measure. The [TPM Report](#) of the first cycle has been shared with PUNOs to inform the decision making of the programme implementation. The second cycle of the TPM started in fourth quarter of 2021 and the report will be issued by the early next year.
- [The Baseline Assessment](#) was conducted for the purpose of providing benchmark data against which the programme can monitor and assess its progress and effectiveness, as well as to set the baseline values for all of the outcome indicators and the result indicators at the output level. Despite the various challenges faced, the consulting company has managed to accomplish the assignment, collecting first-hand data from households and communities across all the targeted governorates in the south and north. The main findings of the study were: the targeted communities suffer from many shocks including shortage of food, illness of household members, drought, wind damage and loss of jobs and lands where most HHs faced at least one of these shocks, the most frequent of which is shortage of food; the average level of resilience capacities (absorptive, adaptive and transformative) in targeted communities is poor; the overall food consumption score FCS for households is on the borderline level, the average level of sustainable livelihoods and income in targeted communities is poor, etc.
- [ERRY II JP Midterm Review](#) was conducted in February 2021 by an external consultant contracted by ERRY joint coordination unit. The purpose of the review was to assess the progress of the programme implementation towards its objectives and provide recommendations for the areas that require improvements and adjustments.
- A result-oriented monitoring (ROM) review was conducted by EU in July 2020. The objective of the ROM review was to assess the status of the programme, to look at progress in terms

of input provision, activities undertaken and results delivered (outputs, direct outcomes), and to assist the management team to deal with challenges that have emerged, as well as to find solutions, 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, environment, climate change), and viii) Communication and visibility.

- **EU Evaluation:** In November 2021, The European Commission has conducted an independent evaluation of the joint programme, which was done by international evaluation experts contracted by EU. The evaluation methodology was aligned with EU methodology. It focused on the assessment of achievements and on the quality and the results of Actions in the context of an evolving cooperation policy with an increasing emphasis on result-oriented approaches. The evaluation was based on a comprehensive analysis of the programme implementation along the five OECD-DAC evaluation criteria relevance, coherence, efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability. Besides, aspects of gender equality and women empowerment were considered in the evaluation as well.
- In November 2021, the European Union delegation, together with Development Counsellors from France, Germany and the Netherlands, visited the programme activities in Lahj Governorate. The main objective of the joint field mission was to assess needs and monitor ongoing development projects to gain a better understanding of ground realities and results achieved by projects focusing on livelihoods, food security, local governance, and economic development. They had fruitful discussions with ministries, governorate and district representatives, community councils, UN agencies, local and international NGOs, beneficiaries of projects, women's groups and youth representatives. The delegation concluded that long-term development cooperation in Yemen is an essential complement to ongoing humanitarian assistance, and also development initiatives directly contribute to stabilisation, capacity building, empowerment of women and youth, and the peaceful resolution of local disputes.
- During the reporting period, the programme team conducted some field visits to the programme sites and activities in the targeted districts to monitor and track implementation progress, verify the accuracy of data reported, and receive direct feedback from targeted beneficiaries and key stakeholders.
- In addition to the joint monitoring activities managed by JCU and PUNOs, the Implementing Partners conducted frequent monitoring visits to the activity sites to ensure that the programme activities are implemented as planned and as per the guidelines.

- As part of the programme accountability plans, PUNOs continuously recorded and reviewed the GRM complaints/feedback and addressed them on time. The hotline numbers for agencies' and their IPs' were made available at all project sites, including the cash distribution centers/points, to ensure that the beneficiaries have easy access to the programme accountability and grievance mechanisms. The GRM provides continuous information that helps the programme team to take corrective measures during projects implementation.

7. Lessons Learned

Synergies among PUNOs: To maximize the impact of the programme interventions, the partner UN agencies have scaled up the synergy models implemented in ERRY I where the proposed interventions draw on the comparative advantage of each partnering UN organization. For instance, ILO provided the skills and competency-based capacity building support to post FFA (WFP), Emergency Employment activities (UNDP) and Cooperatives (FAO). Also, UNDP provided solar systems to infrastructures rehabilitated by PUNOs, schools, health centres, and productive assets. Although the UN agencies were not able to synergize their implementation to the expected level due several challenges; one of which is receiving the implementation permits at different time, agencies will consider this as a lesson learned to improve the joint programme complementarity approach in ERRY III.

Linking Humanitarian Interventions with Resilience-Building: Integrating a resilience-building approach within humanitarian context is a critical support to communities' livelihoods, food security, coping mechanisms, recovery and resilience systems. The food security and livelihoods need of the population are great and most of them are still unmet. Capitalizing on the gains and success from ERRY II, ERRY III will ensure more Yemeni people in need are reached by the Joint Programme.

Integration, convergence of actions and targeting same geographical areas: The four UN agencies endeavoured targeting same districts and communities. The approach maximized complementarity and impact of the diverse and integrated interventions. In ERRY II, 50% of the districts were targeted by all interventions; however, the programme will work on increasing the percentage of joint geographical targeting as well as synergies within the technical components.

Increased Women's Participation and Economic Empowerment: Through ERRY Programme, women's participation in agriculture value chain has contributed to improving households' food security and income. Skills development, micro-business establishment, dairy processing and small business support to women's groups require scaling up in order for more women/female-headed households to achieve improved households' livelihoods.

Coordination with Authorities: ERRY II encountered implementation delays due to issues of permits/clearances. The coordination note signed between ERRY II and SCMCHA is a good initiative which has improved working relation and coordination. Capitalizing on this initiative from the outset of the Programme new phase would help to avoid the encumbrances encountered in the implementation of ERRY II.

Use of Community Resilience Plans and SDC by all PUNOs: The key to achieving community resilience is strengthening the capacity of VCCs/SDCs to develop resilience plans, mobilize resources and implement self-help initiatives. As such, implementing interventions through developed joint plans by SDCs shall enhance team integration, efficiency, collaboration, and delivery as one Joint Programme.

Inception phase: Inception phase of ERRY II was not done due to several factors, mainly Covid-19 restrictions. The programme needs to dedicate time for an inception before the start of ERRY III implementation. The inception phase should provide opportunity for stakeholders to build consensus on priority needs of the targeted communities. The inception phase should include community assessment, the results of which should feed into the implementation planning, develop common understanding of communities' priority needs, implementation approach, agree on beneficiaries and geographical targeting and develop joint monitoring mechanism.

8. Key Challenges

The project has faced problems and challenges on various accounts and has managed to address those impediments in timely manner:

- 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. As a result, work on synergies has been affected and delayed due to the different times of obtaining permits by IPs. After receiving the approvals, partners have been implementing the activities at full pace. The programme has exerted great effort to agree on a coordination mechanism with SCMCHA, which is expected to help expedite the delivery and maximize the synergy among PUNOs & IPs. The signed Coordination Note between ERRY II JP and SCMCHA shall ease restrictions on field activities, ease/speed up granting permits for movements of goods and personnel and delivery of services, as well as organize joint field monitoring visits with the participation of authorities.
- COVID-19:** The emergence of the novel Corona virus slowed down the implementation of the projects in targeted locations and resulted in withholding of gatherings, consultations, trainings and in few cases activity implementation. A business continuity plan was developed to continue the project implementation. Without changing the project design, the activities were re-focused to contribute to 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 and FFA activities and applied online business skill training methodology. Partners also distributed preventive measures (masks, sanitisers, jerry cans) to promote handwashing and social distancing.
- Inflation and exchange rates difference in the regions:** The programme has also experienced inflation and substantial difference of exchange rates 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.

- **Shrinking humanitarian space.** The operating environment in Yemen, particularly in the north continued to shrink as the result of obstacles imposed by the actions of national and local authorities. While the local authorities at times aided programme delivery, often they also act as impediments through imposition of unnecessary demands and restrictions that resulted in slowed pace of programme delivery.
- **Movement constraints due to security situation:** The security situation in Yemen continues to be unstable, causing significant delays in the programme implementation and limiting the movement of UN teams, which hindered their field visits to monitor the activities in the field and to meet the beneficiaries face to face to learn their challenges and listen to their success stories in person. In addition, during the reporting period a sudden upsurge of conflict in Abyan challenged the implementing partners to visit the field locations.
- **Food securing and livelihood needs continue to soar:** The meltdown of Yemen economy due to the current crisis (conflict and Covid-19) has caused many more people to become food insecure. The support provided through the programme does not sufficiently meet the needs of vulnerable households and communities. In addition, the insufficient capacity for programme to implement bigger assets due to insufficient funding – required balance between type of assets and number of targeted participants.
- **Intransigence of counterpart institutions.** Ban of distribution of seeds (field crops, fodder and vegetable) has upended plans to provide seeds to target beneficiaries. FAO endeavored to convince the authority to lift the ban without success. This situation resulted in expiration of seeds in storage that require disposal. With the ban of distributing seeds firmly in place, FAO was compelled to negotiate with the authority (MAI, SCMCHA and TDA) for alternative interventions to provide seeds as envisaged in the project document.
- **Governance systems:** The divide between northern and southern Yemen controlled by the Sana'a Based Authorities (SBA) and Internationally Recognized Government (IRG) respectively which have different governance systems and visions have created many challenges for humanitarian and development agencies in Yemen. Moreover, in the SBA controlled areas, there are other layers of authorities which have their own rules and requirements for programme implementation. The most important additional layer of authority is the Tihama Development Authority (TDA) which often did not accept permits issued by SCMCHA HQ, situations that often frustrated both FAO and its IPs and slowed the programme implementation.

The programme also faced some operational challenges as summarized below:

- The constant severe fuel shortage in both regions of the country, resulting in increase of the cost of transportation of goods and materials, as well as partners movements.
- The devaluation of Yemeni Rial and the substantial difference in the exchange rate between the North and South.
- Further restrictions imposed by local authorities in some districts created complications and difficulties to implement some activities, such as distribution of inputs to smallholder farmers.
- Difficulties in getting visas to Yemen for international consultants, trainers, and/or evaluators, which critically affect the efficiency and timeliness of deliverables.
- Poor internet connectivity created challenge for beneficiaries to receive training online.

9. Annexes:

Annex I: Risk management

The programme experienced the below risks during the implementation period which were addressed through appropriate mitigation measures as highlighted below in the table.

Risks	Mitigation Measures
Increased tensions between warring parties of conflict in across the active frontlines in targeted governorates (Political)	Regular meetings with IPs on Programmatic Risk Assessment were conducted and ensured that those anticipated risks are being managed properly. Some IPs have been implementing project activities close to frontlines and frequent meetings have helped to assess the risks in advance and corrective measures were applied.
Tensions between communities (e.g. host communities and IDPs) (operational)	The targeting criteria was developed based on five capitals and applied to avoid exclusion. The project has also established feedback and compliant mechanism to ensure that both IDPs and host communities are targeted without any discrimination.
Local authority (SCMCHA) tightens the approval procedures for IPs leading to delay in implementation (operational)	Worked closely with JCU to facilitate the issuance of permits by SCMCHA. Coordinated with IPs to encourage them to engage with SCMCHA to get approval for sub-agreements Guided implementing partners to wait for the approval and stop charging salaries and consumable items including all direct, indirect and overhead costs.

Land mines and other explosives are prevalent in the southern governorates of Aden, Lahj and Abyan where heavy fighting has taken place (operational)	Implementing partner (FAF) coordinated with YEMAC team to organize MINE Awareness orientation in Serar.
Fuel prices further increase/lack of fuel availability leading to delays in implementation (operational)	Regular monitoring of fuel prices was done by the implementing partners. The operational costs of the implementation is in USD and therefore, there was no adverse impact on the implementation.
Despite peace agreement, the Hodeidah ways of working did not improve (political)	Regular meetings with implementing partners were organized to support them to adhere to the ways of working in Hodeidah.
Lack of understanding about ERRY's objectives and approach among stakeholders leading to the risks of unwarranted expectations for IPs to deliver through ERRY (operational)	Regular interface with the stakeholders to present the progress of ERRY were conducted in northern and southern targeted districts. Supported IPs for active engagement of stakeholders at all levels of ERRY implementation Facilitated IPs to share human interest stories, impact stories or case studies with the stakeholders Joint monitoring visits with the stakeholders were conducted.
Conflict of messaging from humanitarian and ERRY partners leading to a risk of lack of willingness of stakeholders to support IPs to implement ERRY's activities (operational)	Information/fact sheet sharing of ERRY on humanitarian response portal of Yemen were done
Utilization of resource support (seed capital) for humanitarian needs leading to risks of failure of micro businesses (operational)	Supported IPs to conduct awareness campaign on 3x6 approach Facilitated IPs to organize exposure visits of successful micro business Supported IPs to promote successful business owners as grass root mentors for their community

Annex II: 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)	North & South
	Field Medical Foundation (FMF)	North
FAO	Tamdeen Youth Foundation (TYF)	South
	Steps Foundation for Civil Development (SFCD)	South
	Bena Charity for Humanitarian Development (BCHD)	South
	SRA Foundation for Sustainable Development	North
	Yemeni Association for Development and Environment (YADE)	North
	MOZN Charitable Social and Developmental Foundation	North
	SADA Foundation for Building and Development	North
	Assistance for Response and development	North
ILO	Ghadaq for Development	North & South
	Mayar Foundation for Development (MFD)	South
	The Small and Micro Enterprise Promotion Service (SMEPS)	South