

2023

ANNUAL REPORT

ERRY III Joint Programme



**SUPPORTING RESILIENT
LIVELIHOODS, FOOD SECURITY
AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION IN
YEMEN / ERRY III JOINT
PROGRAMME**



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Programme



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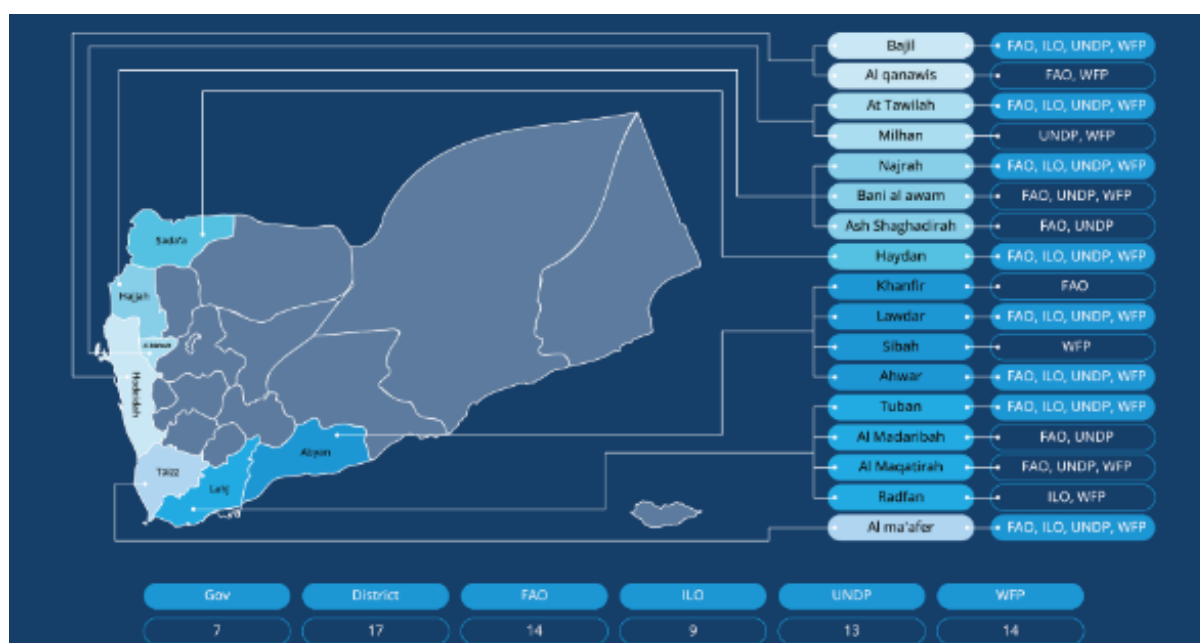
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Acronyms

AVC	AGRICULTURE VALUE CHAIN
ARD	Assistance for Response and Development
AREA	Agriculture Research and Extension Authorities
BFD	Bena Foundation for Development
BOQS	Bill of Quantities
CAHWS	Community Animal Health Workers
CRP	Community Resilience Plan
CP	Cooperating Partner
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
ERRY III	Supporting Resilient Livelihoods, Food Security, and Climate Adaptation in Yemen- Joint Programme
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
FFA	Food assistance For Assets
FFT	Food assistance For Training
ILO	International Labour Organization
IP	Implementing Partner
IRG	Internationally Recognized Government
LG	Local Governance Component
LOA	Letter of Agreement
LTA	Long Term Agreement
LV	Livelihood Component (3x6)
MFIS	Micro Finance Institutions
MOAI	Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
PUNOS	Participating United Nations Organizations
RE	Renewable Energy Component
RI	Relief International
SBA	Sana'a-based Authorities
SC	Social Cohesion Component
SCMCHA	Supreme Council for the Management and Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and International Cooperation
SDC	Sub-district Development Committee
SED	Skills & Entrepreneurship Development
SES	Social and Environmental Standards
SFD	Social Fund for Development
SMEPS	Small and Micro Enterprise Promotion Service
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training Ministry
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
VCC	Village Cooperative Council
WFP	World Food Programme
WUA	Water User Association

Programme Summary

Programme Name	Supporting Resilient Livelihoods, Food Security and Climate Adaptation in Yemen, Joint Programme (ERRY III)
Contract No.	NDICIASIA/2021/428-650
Implementation Period	March 2022 – February 2025
Total Contracted Amount	49,378,000 USD
Donors	EU & Sweden
Participating UN Organizations (PUNOs)	FAO, ILO, UNDP, WFP
Administrative Agent (AA)	Multi Partners Trust Fund Office (MPTFO)
Convening Agent	UNDP
Target Gov and districts	<p>South:</p> <p>Abyan: Khanfir, Lawdar, Sibah, Ahwar</p> <p>Lahj: Tuban, Al Madaribah, Al Maqatirah, Radfan</p> <p>Taizz: Al-Ma'afer</p> <p>North:</p> <p>Hajjah: Najrah, Bani al awam, Ash Shaghadirah</p> <p>Hudaydah: Bajil, Al qanawis</p> <p>Al-Mahweet: At Tawilah, Milhan</p> <p>Sada'a: Haydan</p>
Implementing Partners	Refer to annex 1



1. Executive Summary

This report provides an overview of the achievements and progress made during the year of 2023 by the Supporting Resilient Livelihoods, Food Security and Climate Adaptation Joint Programme (ERRY III). It also provides a detailed account of the progress made towards the programme's outputs and results.

Key Achievements of the ERRY III Joint Programme:

Increased local institutional resilience management and community social cohesion in crisis-affected communities.

The joint programme achieved visible results by improving capacity of local institution for resilience building and social cohesion in targeted communities, under this outcome. The targeted community-based institutions improved their ability to plan, coordinate, and carry out community initiatives that bolster social cohesion and community resilience. Many community initiatives pertaining to roads, water, education, and health have been implemented. These community initiatives are expected to improve access to clean water, access to quality education, access to better healthcare services and access to markets of the targeted community members. Some of the key achievements are summarized as below:

- **82 Village Cooperative Councils (VCCs)** have been formed and activated, bringing the total of formed VCCs to **326**.
- **3,130 members** of the VCCs, **48% of whom are women**, have been trained on community resilience planning.
- **14 Sub-District Development Committees (SDCs)** have been formed and activated, bringing the total to **50 SDCs**.
- **114 SDC members** have been trained on resilience planning, budgeting, and implementation of self-help initiatives, bringing the total **717 members, 330 whom are women**.
- **14 gender-sensitive Community Resilience Plans (CRP)** have been developed, bringing the cumulative number of CRPs to **50**.
- **89 gender-responsive compact initiatives and subdistrict projects** identified in the CRPs have been supported by the programme, benefitting around **46,342 people** to have better access to basic services such as education, water, health, and transportation.
- Through active community participation and contribution, communities have effectively utilized Community Resilience Plans (CRPs) to implement **432 gender-responsive self-help projects**.
- A total of **309 community mediators and 670 SDC members**, with **47% being women**, have been provided with capacity building training in social cohesion, conflict scanning, and community dialogue.
- The trained mediators have successfully developed **39 conflict scans** and facilitated **90 sessions** of community dialogues.
- **129 community priorities** for conflict resolution were identified, and out of these, **89 projects** have been supported with grants during 2023.

Broadened access of vulnerable population to sources of energy and job opportunities in the renewable energy sector.

The programme has made significant contributions to promoting the adoption of renewable energy, enhancing access to clean energy solutions, and empowering individuals and communities. It has

provided uninterrupted clean energy to various public service facilities such as schools, health centres, local administration offices, and productive assets. Capacity building training has been conducted for duty bearers responsible for operating and maintaining the provided solar systems. Additionally, the programme has supported income generation opportunities by equipping vulnerable individuals with essential skills and toolkits. Some of the key achievements in the renewable energy sector include:

- **150 entrepreneurs** who are working in the solar energy sector have been provided with technical and financial support.
- **39 public service facilities** have been **provided** with solar/clean energy systems to be able to provide better basic services for men and women in the targeted communities.
- **111 public representatives** have been **trained** on the operation and maintenance (**OM**) of the installed solar systems to ensure long-term sustainability.
- A **mini-grid system** is being **constructed** aiming to provide sustainable and reliable energy access to the targeted communities.
- A **water desalination plant** has been **established** and operationalized.
- Out of the beneficiaries involved in the apprenticeship program, **140 apprentices** have specialized in **the installation and maintenance of small solar systems**.
- A Solar Online Platform has been developed to map the solar interventions by all actors in the country.

Increased sustainable production and productivity of crop and livestock in crisis-affected communities.

The programme has implemented a range of initiatives to enhance agricultural productivity and livelihoods. Farmers were supported with high-quality sorghum and millet seeds, resulting in improved yields and productivity. Additionally, Community Seed Banks are being established for proper storage of crop seeds. The joint programme also supported livestock fattening by providing molasses to beneficiaries to enhance nutrition and increase livestock production. Inputs for dairy processing were given to women groups to improve the quality and hygiene of their dairy products. Below are some of the achievements made during the reporting period:

- **Sorghum and millet** seeds were distributed to **6,160 HHs**. **6,080 ha** was **planted** with sorghum and **80 ha** with millet.
- A total of **39 key people** from the Water User Associations (**WUAs**) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (**MoAI**) have been trained in water management, harvesting, irrigation, and other topics related to sustainable agriculture production.
- Designs and Bill of Quantities (**BoQs**) for four community **seed banks** were prepared.
- A group of **36 Master Trainers** participated in two sessions dedicated to Farmer Field School (FFS), aimed at equipping them with the necessary skills and knowledge to facilitate FFS learning and promote knowledge sharing within FFS groups.
- **50** new Community Animal Health Workers (**CAHWs**), **30% women**, have been **trained** to provide veterinary and extension services and support their communities.
- **560 farmers** have received high-quality **landrace seeds** adapted to climate shocks.
- A total of **30 extension staff officers** from the Agriculture Research and Extension Authorities (AREA), **including 10 females**, have received training on **climate-smart agriculture** and related technologies.
- **2 dairy processing centers** **provided** with the necessary equipment for milk processing and packaging, and **2 dairy marketing centers** have been **established** to enhance the value chain of dairy marketing.

- **1,437 female-headed households** received the dairy equipment to improve the milk products quality and hygiene.

Improved access of women, youth, and other vulnerable groups to food and income opportunities.

The programme has achieved noteworthy progress in empowering targeted communities to enhance their income and livelihoods through a diverse range of activities and interventions. These efforts encompass engaging in emergency employment opportunities to improve households access to food, while simultaneously rehabilitating communal assets like rural roads, water harvesting schemes, agricultural projects, and social infrastructure. Also, entrepreneurship training programs were provided to targeted vulnerable groups to equip them with vital life skills and business management expertise. Participants received support in the form of financing grants to establish their own microbusinesses, creating improved and sustainable livelihood opportunities. Vulnerable youths and women were engaged in the apprenticeship program and were trained and certified in market-demanded occupations to enhance their employability and facilitate access to decent job opportunities. Below are some of the key achievements under this intermediate outcome:

- **2,890 households (20,230 people) engaged** in the rehabilitation/construction of different community assets through Food/Cash Assistance for Assets (FFA) activities.
- **41 community assets** have been **rehabilitated/constructed** through FFA activities in various sectors including water sources, rural road rehabilitation, water harvesting schemes, agricultural projects, and schools. More than **59,000 people indirectly benefitted** from the created/rehabilitated assets, which also **contributed to women accessibility** to different services such as education, water, health and transportation.
- **135 female participants** have been engaged in the income/skill generation trainings through Food Assistance for Training activity (FFT).
- A **market study** was developed to comprehend and analyze the necessities and opportunities for training, microbusiness sectors, self-employment, and micro-entrepreneurship, particularly for women and youth in selected rural communities.
- Short-term employment opportunities created for **4,800 beneficiaries, 40% of whom are women**, through participation in Cash-for-Work activities, resulting in the construction and rehabilitation of **41 community assets** to improve access to basic social services and markets.
- **26 trainers, including 9 females, certified** in Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) packages.
- **50 ILO-trained trainers** conducted entrepreneurship training for small business owners supported by UNDP to access grants.
- **4,800 beneficiaries** have undergone training in business development and life skills, **38% of whom are women**, empowering them to launch and oversee income-generating activities.
- A total of **750 beneficiaries, including 355 women**, have received grant financing to establish their own income-generating projects.
- ILO, in collaboration with the Businesswomen Council, Federation of Yemen Chambers of Commerce & Industry & its member chambers, has trained **210 women business owners** in Improve Your Business (IYB) and Business Continuity Planning (BCP)
- Rapid labour market assessments were conducted in five districts in Lahj, Taiz, and Abyan governorates to identify market-demanded occupations in the South. The ILO, in collaboration with its implementation partner, SFD, organized a workshop in Aden in which key and relevant stakeholders participated, discussed, and validated the assessment findings.
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training (MTEVT), **two new curricula** have been developed, while three existing ones are being updated.

- **273 master craftspeople and TVET supervisors, 44% women**, were trained to facilitate competency-based training and assessment as well as mentoring apprentices during on-the-job learning sessions.
- **795 apprentices, 48% women, seven** of the graduates are Muhamasheen and **29** are internally displaced persons (**IDPs**) completed the training and have been certified in market-demanded occupations.
- Market linkage events (Bazaars and Exhibitions) have been organized to showcase apprentices' products and services.
- Workshops are organized to connect potential employers and Microfinance Institutions with apprenticeship graduates, aiming to facilitate access to finance and post-training support.

2. Background

After eight years of ongoing conflict, the humanitarian crisis in Yemen remains extremely severe. The situation has left over 21 million people, which accounts for two-thirds of the population, in desperate need of humanitarian assistance. The protracted conflict has caused a collapse of the economy, leading to widespread poverty.

Although the truce facilitated by the United Nations provided a temporary respite from the fighting, essential services and the overall economy of Yemen continue to deteriorate. The cost of the minimum household expenditures basket has surged by over 50 percent within just one year, exacerbating the economic hardships faced by the population. Moreover, more than 80 per cent of the people struggle to access food, safe drinking water, and adequate healthcare services.

The socio-economic conditions in Yemen are characterized by extensive poverty, high rates of unemployment, and limited access to essential services. Even prior to the conflict, Yemen was already one of the poorest countries in the Middle East, with a significant portion of the population living below the poverty line. However, the conflict has further exacerbated these conditions, plunging more people into poverty and increasing the challenges they face.

The impact of the conflict on the economy has been significant. Many businesses have been forced to close, resulting in widespread job losses and reduced income opportunities for the population. The Yemeni currency has experienced a substantial depreciation, leading to inflation, and making essential goods and services less affordable for the general population.

Access to healthcare, education, and other basic services has been severely disrupted due to the conflict. Many facilities have been damaged or rendered inaccessible, limiting the availability and quality of these services. Furthermore, the conflict has disrupted trade and humanitarian aid flows, further exacerbating the challenges faced by the Yemeni population.

The protracted conflict has not only had a devastating impact on the socio-economic situation but has also been marked by severe violations of human rights and humanitarian law. These violations

have hindered people's ability to enjoy freedom of movement and access employment and other livelihood opportunities safely and with dignity¹.

The circumstances in Yemen remain dire, demanding urgent attention and concerted efforts to alleviate the suffering and address the complex challenges faced by the Yemeni population.

The ERRY III interventions were designed, building on lessons learned and best practices from ERRY II, to support the rural communities to manage local risks and shocks for increased resilience and self-reliance.

The overall objective of the Joint Programme (Goal) is to strengthen resilience of the population in the most vulnerable governorates in Yemen. The specific objective/outcome of the joint programme is improved management of local risks and shocks in crisis-affected communities of the most vulnerable governorates in Yemen.

The programme aims to achieve four intermediate outcomes:

- **Intermediate Outcome 1:** Increased local institutional resilience management and community social cohesion in crisis-affected communities.
- **Intermediate Outcome 2:** Broadened access of vulnerable population to sources of energy and job opportunities in the renewable energy sector.
- **Intermediate Outcome 3:** Increased sustainable production and productivity of crop and livestock in crisis-affected communities.
- **Intermediate Outcome 4:** Improved access of women, youth, and other vulnerable groups to food and income opportunities.

ERRY III Joint Programme targets the most vulnerable groups including youth, women, the unemployed, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and stressed host communities, and people with disabilities, using inclusive, participatory, and conflict-sensitive tools to mobilize and involve them in the programme activities. The programme targets 17 of the highly vulnerable districts within the target seven governorates across Yemen.

3. Progress towards Results

Intermediate outcome 1:

Increased local institutional resilience management and community social cohesion in crisis-affected communities.

The programme has played a crucial role in empowering targeted communities in order to support local authorities that have been weakened by the ongoing armed conflict in Yemen. The objective has been to strengthen the communities' role in planning and identifying their specific needs.

The outcomes of the local governance component provided the foundation for interventions across other programme components. Community resilience plans (CRPs) were developed under this

¹ OCHA Humanitarian Update, issue 9, October 2023

component, serving as the basis for planning activities at the community and subdistrict levels. These plans have helped guide the implementation of various initiatives and interventions.

Indicator	Target		Progress Against targets			Status
	Overall	Annual	Reporting period	Cumulative	%	
1.1.1. Number of targeted community institutions that implement the Community Resilience Plans (CRP)	40	20	19	19	95%	Achieved
1.1.2. Number of targeted informal self-help groups that become cooperatives	50	50	0	0	0%	Because this indicator is contingent on the successful completion of establishing producer groups along the four agricultural value chains FAO and ILO agreed, it has been rescheduled for 2024. See the explanations below.

The targeted community institutions have successfully implemented numerous initiatives and projects that have been identified and prioritized in the developed CRPs. A notable achievement has been the rehabilitation/construction of community infrastructure facilities across various sectors, including roads, water, health, and education. These community projects have been made possible through the support of grants provided by the programme.

In addition, 19 of the targeted communities have utilized the CRPs to implement self-help initiatives, which have been carried out through the active participation and contribution of community members themselves. As a result, a total number of 432 self-help initiatives were implemented by the communities themselves during the reporting period. The completion of these self-help projects showcases the community's dedication and commitment to improving their own circumstances.

These community-driven efforts, guided by the CRPs, demonstrate the effectiveness of empowering local communities in addressing their own needs and fostering resilience. By actively engaging in the planning and implementation of projects, communities are not only improving their infrastructure but also building their capacity for sustainable development and local resilience management.

In parallel, the International Labour Organization (ILO) has been involved in enhancing the capacities of informal self-help/producer's groups. To maximize the impact of interventions within the ERRY III joint program, it is crucial to strengthen integration, synergy, and complementarity between the initiatives led by ILO and FAO. Originally, FAO was tasked with establishing producer groups along the agreed-upon agricultural value chains, with subsequent provision of technical support post-group formation, including infrastructure development and equipment procurement. Following this, ILO would conduct a Training Needs Assessment (TNA) and develop a tailored capacity development strategy, encompassing small business management and entrepreneurship training. Among the proposed capacity-building initiatives was the "Our.COOP" program, designed to support those interested in cooperative movements across various stages.

Given the recent completion of producer group establishment and the time required to conduct a proper TNA for customization of trainings that suit specific groups based on their stage, the ILO's training activities have been rescheduled for 2024. It is worth noting that the ILO and FAO project

teams conducted several consultative meetings and agreed the need to tailor ILO's support to each group's specific needs. As the stage of each producers group or informal self-help groups, as well as their business challenges and opportunities, varies, these discussions intended to determine the most appropriate capacity development support, strategy, and approach for each context.

With this necessary groundwork completed, the implementation of training, coaching, and mentoring sessions is set to commence shortly, ensuring a unified and impactful approach. The programme efforts contribute to the overall objective of fostering community resilience and empowering local communities in Yemen, despite the challenging circumstances posed by the ongoing conflict.

Output 1.1:

Improved the capacity of community structures and local institutions to strengthen the resilience of the community.

The key objective of interventions under this output is to promote bottom-up governance at the lowest community structure, through enabling affected communities to participatorily identify their priorities and enable them to better prepare for future shocks and stresses.

Indicator	Target		Progress against targets			Status
	Overall	Annual	Reporting period	Cumulative	%	
1.1.1.1 Number of people who increased their knowledge on Community Resilience Plans (CRP) planning, gender and local conflicts and CRP outcomes (disaggregated by woman/man), with support of the intervention	200	100	114	717	114%	Achieved
1.1.1.2 Number of Community Resilience Plans (CRP) developed at sub-district level, with support of the intervention	40	20	14	50	70%	Achieved (The cumulative achievement exceeded the overall target.)
1.1.1.3 Number of infrastructure facilities built or rehabilitated in the communities with support of the intervention (disaggregated by: built/rehabilitated)	140 ²	40	89 ³	89	64%	Achieved

To achieve this objective of the intervention, many activities were conducted during 2023 as follows:

Under the Local Governance and Social Cohesion Component, UNDP, in partnership with SFD, has supported the formation of 14 subdistrict committees SDCs while 36 SDC were formed in 2022, the total of formed SDCs reached 50 by the end of 2023. These 50 SDCs comprised of 717 (330 women) elected members who act as representatives for their communities and lead the subsequent resilience planning and implementation of community projects.

At the village level, 82 Village Cooperative Councils (VCCs) were established through transparent election, which brought the accumulative total to of formed VCCs to 326. This process involved the

² This is the combined overall target: (115) projects through Local Governance and (25) through the Social Cohesion component.

³ Out of these 89 projects, 86 implemented at the villages and SD levels through the LG component and 3 conflict-resolution projects implemented through Social Cohesion component.

active participation of 3,130 members of the village cooperative councils, with women comprising 48%, who were trained on community resilience planning. Progress of the activities implementation per district is highlighted in annex 2 table 1.

As a result of the establishment / re-activation of Sub District Committees (SDCs), 114 SDCs members were trained during the reporting period, bringing the total of trained SDC members to 717, including 330 women, who represented the communities in their subdistricts. Each sub district committee consists of two representatives (1 male and 1 female) from each Village Cooperative Council (VCC). SDC members have been trained for 7 days on developing community resilience planning and budgeting. Women actively participated in the training programme and were able to address their problems, needs and reflect them in the plans.

The core focus of the capacity building interventions is to enhance the abilities of both communities and local authorities in preparing resilience plans, mobilizing resources, and implementing self-help initiatives. Members from local authorities actively participated in the process of SDCs establishment and CRP development.

The trained community representatives from SDCs (males and females) have led the subsequent resilience planning and implementation. Along with the database and need assessment conducted at the village level, SDC members developed the community resilience plan CRPs at SDs level. During 2023, SDCs members developed 14 CRPs, bringing the total to 50 CRPs in 50 targeted subdistricts and centres, which exceeded the overall target by 10 plans. The CRP includes the community needs assessment for the social services, infrastructures, resource mapping, livelihood, income/expenditure mapping, market analysis, stakeholder's analysis, problem prioritization and solution identification.



Identification of needed projects through Resilience Plans in Hajjah, Ash-Shaghadira

The CRPs have been developed taking into consideration the needs and priorities of the community, including strategies to address a range of issues, such as food security, water security, education, health, and livelihood. The plans also took into consideration the PUNOs highlighted needs/areas of intervention to ensure better synergy between different ERRY outcomes.

Community resilience plans serve as a crucial foundation for interventions and act as a tool for advocacy, mobilization, and community engagement. By supporting the development of community resilience plans, the ERRY III joint programme has helped to build the capacity of communities to effectively identify priority areas and address their needs which have been prioritized in a participatory approach and supported by grant provision for rehabilitating infrastructure facilities and deliver basic services.

The engagement of women representatives in the development of CRPs was instrumental in ensuring that their unique problems, needs, and priorities were reflected in the plans. Women played a crucial role in decision-making processes to address their specific concerns and priorities within the CRPs.

These plans were developed with a gender-sensitive approach, recognizing that women are often the most vulnerable group and require special attention.

The increase in the number of CRPs was a response to the request from local authorities to involve more subdistricts, aiming to maintain close-knit social relations within the communities. Additionally, community members expressed their desire for equal representation at the village level within the targeted subdistricts. As a result, the number of members in the Sub District Committees (SDCs) also increased. This expansion allowed for broader participation and representation within the CRP planning process. The increased number of SDC members contributed to the dissemination of knowledge regarding CRPs and their planning procedures within the communities.

Recognizing the significance of Community Resilience Plans (CRPs) as the cornerstone of all interventions by PUNOs and their Implementing Partners, UNDP and its partner, the Social Fund for Development (SFD), organized two workshops. A total of 58 participants from PUNOs, IPs, Local Authorities (LAs), and SDCs attended and actively participated in these workshops.

The two workshops were conducted in both regions to ensure broad participation and engagement. The first workshop took place in Aden and brought together representatives from Local Authorities, Implementing Partners, and community representatives from targeted districts in Lahj, Taiz, and Abyan. The second workshop was held in Hajjah and included participants from LAs, IPs, and community representatives from targeted districts in Hajjah, Hodeidah, and Mahweet.

These workshops specifically focused on the Community Resilience Plan framework and the outcomes it aims to achieve. The main objective of the workshops was to present the developed Community Resilience Plans (CRPs) and share their outcomes with all stakeholders involved in the ERRY III joint programme including PUNOs, IPs, local authorities, and communities.

Prior to the workshops, preparatory meetings were held between community representatives, LA members, and SFD consultants. These meetings were facilitated by the Planning Officer from UNDP and SFD. The discussions in these meetings centered around the workshop agenda, facilitation of workshop discussions, presentation of CRP samples, and the designation of roles and responsibilities among the district teams.

Based on the needs and priorities identified in the developed CRPs, a total number of **89 projects** at both the subdistrict and village levels have been supported by the programme, while **432 self-help initiatives** have been implemented by the VCCs in the ERRY targeted districts as shown in annex 2 table 2.

The total cost for the projects at subdistrict level and initiatives at village level (implemented and under implementation) are estimated at \$ 765,000 (\$ 532,000 ERRY contribution and \$ 233,000 community in-kind contribution).

The total cost of the projects at the subdistrict level and initiatives at the village level, including those already implemented and those currently under implementation, is estimated at \$765,000. Out of this total, \$532,000 is contributed by ERRY III programme and the community in-kind contribution is \$233,000.

It is also worth mentioning that, at the first stage of community mobilization and capacity building, the communities were mobilized through their representatives from VCCs members to implement Self-help Initiatives with a view to reinforcing community's self-reliance and ensure ownership. By 2023, a total of 432 self-help initiatives were implemented at the village level (the target achieved in 2023 was 131).

During the initial stage of community mobilization and capacity building, the communities were engaged through their representatives from VCCs to implement Self-help Initiatives that would strengthen the communities' self-reliance and foster a sense of ownership. By 2023, a significant achievement was made, with a total of 432 self-help initiatives successfully implemented at the village level although the target for 2023 was set at 131 initiatives.

Supported community projects.

Within the LG and SC component, the programme has provided support for the rehabilitation/construction of **89 community infrastructure projects** that have been identified and prioritized in the CRPs. The community infrastructure initiatives address the communities' critical needs across various key sectors including water, road, health, and education as detailed in annex 2 table 3.

Analytical Insights and highlights of 2023 Achievements on community priorities implementation

In an effort to promote community self-reliance and operationalize the Community Resilience Plan (CRP) plans, over 129 community priorities were selected in 2023. Among these priorities, 18 were related to conflict resolution. Out of the selected priorities, 89 initiatives were initiated for implementation at both the village and subdistrict levels. These initiatives received grants from ERRY based on a match grant approach.

Under this approach, the community's in-kind contribution could reach up to 50% of the costs for village-level initiatives, while for subdistrict projects, the community's contribution ranged from 10% to 20%. The remaining balance was covered by the ERRY III grant.

These 89 initiatives have had a significant impact on the targeted communities across various sectors as detailed in the following section.

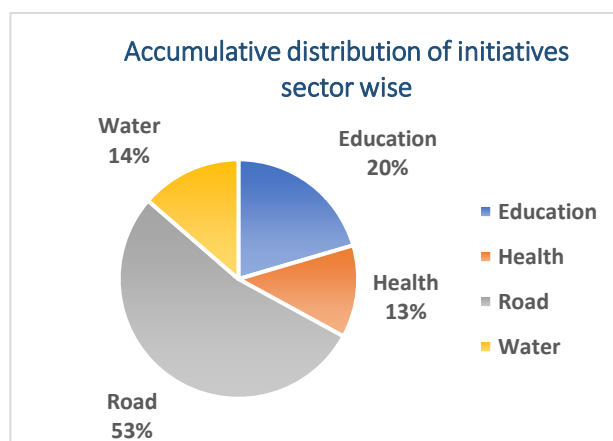
Thematic Types of Interventions

The chart shows a variety of sectoral priorities that have been implemented as part of the project. The four dominant sectors throughout the project are as follows:

a) **Education:** This sector accounts for 20% of all interventions. It indicates a significant focus on improving educational facilities and services within the communities.

b) **Water:** Water-related interventions occupy 14% of the implemented priorities. This suggests a strong emphasis on addressing water-related challenges and improving access to clean and safe water sources.

c) **Health:** Health-related interventions make up 13% of the implemented priorities. The lower percentage in this sector can be attributed to the high costs associated with healthcare infrastructure



facilities, which often require shared services among multiple villages and specialized staff to operate effectively.

d) **Roads:** Road interventions have the highest percentage, comprising 53% of all interventions. This high percentage can be attributed to the availability of materials for road paving, the presence of skilled and unskilled labour within the community, and the relatively easier ability of the community to provide in-kind contributions for road projects.

Impact Highlights and Priorities Across Governorates

The chart reflects the different priorities of governorates, as seen in their selection of initiatives and projects. This highlights the importance of tailoring interventions to meet the specific needs of each region.

Education:

The education-related interventions primarily focused on the rehabilitation of schools and the construction of additional classrooms. By the end of 2023, a total of 35 classrooms had been constructed or rehabilitated, with 9 still under implementation. These efforts have benefited over 1,500 girls and boys, primarily elementary school students. Additionally, 120m³ of protection retaining walls were built in conjunction with school construction, and two water tanks with a capacity of 36 m³ were installed for rainwater harvesting.

The classroom initiatives directly tackle the issue of overcrowding in schools, which is a significant concern. By constructing additional classrooms and rehabilitating existing ones, the interventions create a more conducive learning environment for students. The availability of classrooms in villages also plays a crucial role in reducing the need for children, particularly girls, to travel long distances to access education. This not only enhances access to education but also promotes gender equality and ensures that children can receive education within their own communities, leading to improved educational outcomes and opportunities for all.



Education related interventions are prioritized in the governorates of Hajjah, Taiz, and Lahj due to the shortage of schools and facilities, especially in rural areas. The programme allocates resources to address these specific challenges and improve access to education in these regions.

Water:

Water-related interventions have primarily focused on improving the provision and supply of drinking water. This includes the installation and rehabilitation of 4,200 meters of water piping grids and the implementation of 200 water metering systems, benefiting over 300 households. Additionally, 3 water reservoirs with a capacity of 104 m³ have been rehabilitated or constructed, and 1 solar water pump has been installed, benefiting more than 3,000 individuals. These initiatives have alleviated the

burden on women and children who previously had to travel long distances to fetch water, while also improving access to clean water, leading to better hygiene practices and overall health.

The priority given to water-related interventions varied across the governorates. Lahj placed the highest priority on these initiatives, followed by Hajjah and then Mahweet. In Hajjah, Al-Mahweet, and Al-Meqatirah in Lahj, the target districts have a mountainous nature and have long suffered from water shortage and delivery challenges even before the crisis. In contrast, in other target areas, water needs may be more related to the deterioration of the public delivery system and the increase in fuel prices.

Roads:

Regarding roads, the highest priorities have been in the road sector. This is due to the targeted districts and subdistricts being mountainous areas, where community members, especially women, face difficulties in accessing essential services such as healthcare and markets.

To address these challenges, over 3,500 meters of rural roads, covering an area of 11,300 m², have been paved, and more than 142m³ of road protection retaining walls have been constructed. These improvements have benefited around 1,000 households, comprising approximately 7,000 individuals. The enhanced road infrastructure facilitates transportation and connectivity in rural areas, enabling smoother movement of people, goods, and services.

Hajjah has been given the highest priority in road interventions due to its three targeted districts being mountainous areas. Lahj follows, with one mountainous district, and to a significant extent, Al-Mahweet and Taiz.

Health:

The rehabilitation of seven health units, with five currently under implementation, has had a significant impact on improving health services for over 8,000 individuals. It is important to note that some of these health units had already started implementation by local authorities using public funds before the outbreak of the war in 2015. However, due to the war and a shortage of investment budget in the districts, the implementation was halted.

Fortunately, the ERRY III- LG&SC component is now providing support to the health sector by completing the implementation of these facilities. This support has allowed for the establishment of one emergency delivery centre and the fencing of two health units. These initiatives are crucial in enhancing healthcare services and accessibility in the targeted areas.

The establishment of the Emergency Delivery Center is particularly noteworthy as it is expected to benefit approximately 2,000 women by providing critical support and care during childbirth. This will ultimately lead to safer deliveries and contribute to reducing maternal and infant mortality rates. The provision of these essential healthcare services is a significant step towards improving the overall well-being of the communities affected by the crisis.



Emergency Delivery Unit in Al-Khalafia subdistrict-Bajil

Output 1.2:

Communities are equipped with gender-sensitive and culturally appropriate conflict resolution tools.

As part of the programme design, activities under this output are linked with the outcomes of the CRPs development and implementing the community needs priorities to be implemented in synergy wise. UNDP and its implementing partner SFD, put all efforts to expedite the activities' implementation.

These activities included building the capacity of community representatives to support their community in conflict resolution through mediation and community dialogue, conflict scans, and implementation conflict resolution interventions.

Indicator	Target		Progress Against targets			Status
	Overall	Annual	Reporting period	Cumulative	%	
1.1.2.1 Number of community representatives who increase their knowledge on social cohesion, conflict mitigation and resolution (disaggregated by woman/man), with support of the intervention	120	90	309	309 (32 women)	343%	Achieved
1.1.2.2 Number of people engaged in the Community Dialogues for conflict resolution in the targeted communities (disaggregated by women/men), with support of the intervention	500	300	698	698 (185 women)	233%	Achieved
1.1.2.3 Number of people from the cooperatives certified on Think Coops, Start Coops, and My Coops to improve their business (disaggregated by: women/men; active cooperatives/inactive cooperatives/informal self-help groups), with support of the intervention	30	15	0	0	0%	Planned for 2024 due to ongoing discussions with the Agriculture Cooperative Union in both regions

As part of the programme design, activities under this output are linked with the outcomes of the CRPs development and implementing the community needs priorities to be implemented in synergy wise. UNDP and its implementing partner SFD, put all efforts to expedite the activities' implementation.

These activities included building the capacity of community representatives to support their community in conflict resolution through mediation and community dialogue, conflict scans, and implementation conflict resolution interventions. Many activities were conducted in 2023 as following:

As a result of the capacity building for the community mediators and community representatives in SDCs with support from implementing partner, **39** conflict scans have been conducted in **39** centers / subdistricts distributed in the targeted districts as detailed in annex 2 table 4.

In a collaborative manner, following the selection and training of community mediators in conflict resolution and mediation, the community mediators and SDCs representatives proceeded to develop

conflict scans that analysed the conflicts related to local services and resources. Together, they successfully developed **39** conflict scans for **39** subdistricts and centres.

These conflict scans thoroughly examined and identified existing conflicts, providing background information on the conflicts, relevant stakeholders involved, the dynamics of the conflicts, the driving factors, geographical scope, and socio-economic impact. Additionally, they explored the traditional mechanisms used to resolve these conflicts and how communities have adapted and coped with the impacts and outcomes of these conflicts.

This activity served as a platform for community mediators, SDC community representatives, and LA members to come together, engage in discussions, and learn how to promote social cohesion. It also facilitated the analysis of local conflicts pertaining to services and resources, ultimately empowering the culture of peacebuilding, and fostering a sense of ownership over conflicts.

UNDP and its implementing partner SFD conducted two TOT training in 2023, **51** consultants received TOT in social cohesion and community mediation to bring the total to **75** community development facilitators (**17** women) from the target governorates, those consultants to train the community representatives and mediators from the community at targeted SDs on social cohesion, community dialogues, conflict resolution and support developing conflict scans.

At the subdistrict level, **309** community mediators, including **32** females received a 5-days training and capacity building on conflict resolution, mediation, and community dialogue. The experienced community mediators were selected based on community and local authority consultations. As a result of the training, the trainees of community mediators and SDCs members with participation of members from local authorities developed a conflict scan for their respective subdistricts and centres.



A group of community mediators trained on conflict resolution, Lahj governorate.

To contribute on peacebuilding and to support the communities at village level and community mediators, **670** SDC representatives (**321** females) received same 5-days training, build their capacity in conflict resolution, mediation, and community dialogue as shown in annex 2 table 5.

At the district **level**, to have a collective understanding among formal and informal institutions, **99** members from LA, local council LC and legal departments in 9 districts were trained on dealing with conflict relate to local services. Those members have support conflict scan, and conflict resolution in SD level. This kind of capacity building for formal institution brings the local authority along with community mediators to adopt the social cohesion activities for and a methodology to solve community conflict to re-build the social contract, peacebuilding and building trust between community members and the formal institution representatives.

The communities have shown great enthusiasm in identifying and addressing their own problems. While they may have possessed the necessary skills, they were motivated and encouraged to actively confront these issues and seek appropriate solutions. Through community dialogues, they discussed and agreed upon priorities for funding from the ERRY III program. This proactive approach empowered the communities to take ownership of their problems and work towards resolving them

using the available resources and means. By engaging in dialogue and collectively determining their funding priorities, the communities have demonstrated their commitment to finding sustainable solutions to their challenges.

As a consequence of the capacity building, community members have shown a willingness to volunteer in addressing community issues, particularly those pertaining to community assets and service problems.

90 community dialogues have been conducted, thanks to the efforts of trained community mediators and SDC members. Women have actively participated in these community mobilization efforts, with 18 separate sessions held in 13 subdistricts and centers specifically for them.

In total, 698 individuals (including 185 women) have participated in the Community Dialogues sessions, which aimed at resolving conflicts in the targeted communities. These dialogues took place in specific subdistricts and centers and were facilitated by community mediators with the support of SDC members and consultants.

It is important to note that these sessions resulted in consensus-based conflict resolutions, although not all resolutions required support from the program. As the result of the community dialogues, 30 conflicts were successfully resolved.

After the collaborative efforts of community mediators and members, the ERRY project has allocated grants to support the outcomes of community dialogues for conflict resolution, particularly those addressing community assets and service issues. Based on the community dialogues, eighteen conflict resolution interventions have been identified and prioritized. These projects have been implemented in different sectors including Education, Health, Road, Water, and Agriculture as illustrated in annex 2 table 6.

From the table, it is evident that the challenges and conflicts in society are influenced by the nature and difficulties of rural life. The priority for conflict resolution lies in the road sector, followed by water and health sectors. These priorities align with the needs identified by the community in the local governance output 1.1. Road sector conflicts are prevalent in five sub-districts, while water emerges as a crucial resource in four sub-districts.

Out of the eighteen identified conflict resolution interventions, three are currently being implemented, while the remaining fifteen are in the process of tendering and Bill of Quantities (BoQ). These interventions will be supported through the ERRY SC grants and are expected to be implemented by 2024. The second table provided further elaborates on the sector-wise distribution of the identified conflict resolution interventions. It highlights the number of interventions for each sector at the sub-district level, distinguishes between interventions currently under implementation and those in the tendering and BoQ process.

UNDP ERRYIII-LG&SC component is actively progressing with the preparation and implementation of infrastructure facilities based on community priorities at the village and subdistrict levels, where some interventions contribute to conflict resolution.

Under output 1.2, the International Labor Organization (ILO) is planning to support building the capacity of national trainers in cooperative aspects. This will be done through the delivery of Training

of Trainers (TOT) refresher sessions on the ILO's "Our.COOP" tools/packages, namely Think.Coop, Start.Coop, and My.Coop. During the reporting period, the ILO has developed the Terms of Reference for this activity. In addition, the ILO has designated a Master Trainer to conduct these sessions. The primary objective of the TOT is to establish a network of certified pool trainers and educated cooperative service providers who are well-versed in the ILO's approach and cooperative development methodology. This initiative aimed to enhance the knowledge and skills of trainers and service providers, enabling them to effectively promote and support cooperative development.

These achievements demonstrate the programme's commitment to enhancing local governance, social cohesion, and community resilience within the targeted areas. Targeted communities have been involved in the decision-making and implementation processes to ensure that the projects and activities effectively meet the needs of the communities and contribute to their overall development and resilience.

The programme efforts contribute to the overall objective of fostering community resilience and empowering local communities in Yemen, despite the challenging circumstances posed by the ongoing conflict.

Intermediate outcome 2:

Broadened access of vulnerable population to sources of energy and job opportunities in the renewable energy sector

The renewable energy interventions contributed to promoting renewable energy adoption, improving access to clean energy solutions, and empowering individuals and communities through capacity building and income generation opportunities.

During the reporting period, the programme has provided technical and financial support to **150 entrepreneurs** who are working in the solar energy sector. The ILO has integrated renewable energy training into its apprenticeship program, training 140 beneficiaries in solar energy maintenance, installation, and operations where 95 apprentices have been certified in the Southern districts (Tuban, Radfan, Ahwar, Lawdar, and Al-ma'afar) and 45 beneficiaries in Northern districts (Najrah and Almahweet). Moreover, the graduated apprentices received high-quality toolkits to ease their transition into work.

Indicator	Target		Progress Against targets			Status
	Overall	Annual	Reporting period	Cumulative	%	
1.2.1. Number of solar energy systems installed in the communities by technicians from the communities through their micro-enterprises	100 by end of 2024	0	0	0	0%	Will be measured in 2024
1.2.2. Number of targeted entrepreneurs (includes micro-enterprises) working in the solar energy sector disaggregated by women/men	500 by end of 2024	100	150	150	150%	Achieved
1.2.3. Number of facilities with access to uninterrupted solar/clean energy (disaggregated by: public facility/household, district, sector and women facilities)	100 by end of 2024	50	39	39	78%	On-track

Additionally, UNDP supported the establishment of 10 microbusinesses in solar energy through livelihood component. These beneficiaries were supported with grant financing to start their businesses in maintenance and installation of solar systems.

Output 2.1:

Increased opportunities for the communities to access clean and renewable energy solutions.

Indicator	Target		Progress Against targets			Status
	Overall	Annual	Reporting period	Cumulative	%	
1.2.1.1. Number of public facilities and households provided with access to renewable energy solutions (disaggregated by facility/household, men/women-headed, sector, and location, women institutions/services), with support of the intervention	140 Facilities	50	39 facilities	39 facilities	78%	On track
1.2.1.2. Number of public service representatives who increase their knowledge and skills on operation and maintenance (OM) of solar service provision (disaggregated by women/men), with support of the intervention	300	150	111	111	74%	On track

The joint programme has supported public service facilities with access to uninterrupted solar/clean energy. UNDP was able to identify 143 facilities that will be provided with renewable energy solutions; these facilities were identified based on the developed CRPs. 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 UNDP 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 facilities generated by applying selection criteria and recommendations from the district and governorate level's local authority, health, and education offices. Through procurement process under UNDP off-grid solar systems were procured and installed

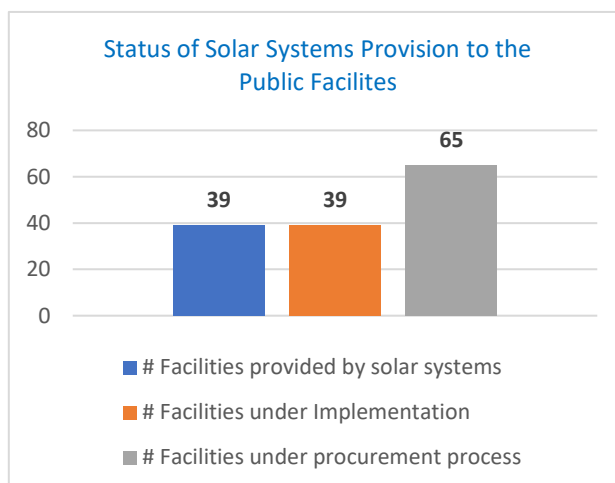


Installation of Solar Systems in the Alzahra school, Najrah District.

in schools, health centers and administration offices. In total, approximately 84,000 individuals have benefitted in two governorates: Hajjah, Taiz in three districts Najrah, Bani Alawam, and Al-Ma'afer, with the installation of solar system facilities. As of now the progress of the installation of renewable energy solutions is as follows:

- 39 solar systems have been completely installed and are operational (15 facilities in Najrah district, 15 in Bani Alawam district, and 9 facilities in Alma'afar district).
- 39 systems are under process (14 facilities in Al-Shagadirah district, 12 in Al Madaribah district, and 13 in Al-Maqatirah district).
- Technical studies for 65 facilities have been already prepared and waiting for the LTA procurement process to be finalized to award the contracts to suppliers to start the installation process.

After installation of the solar systems in the public facilities, an immediate impact has been noticed in the targeted facilities. For instance, the health facilities have utilized the available power to keep medicines and vaccine in the refrigerators which make financial saving since the practice was to bring those vaccines from the central of district on daily basis. In addition, the health care units have proper lighting and operational equipment for any emergency cases at night.

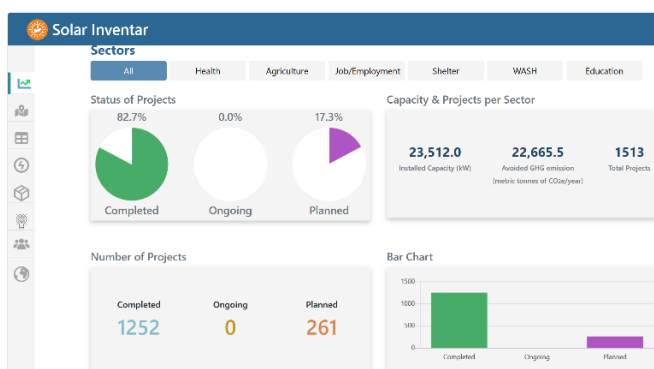


For the education facilities a significant impact has been seen utilizing the solar systems for printing papers, lighting, ventilation of the classes using ceiling fans maintaining the school's furniture, using lights to make facilities secured at night. And this has been reflected on the quality of the education services provided.

To ensure the long-term sustainability of this initiative, UNDP has provided public service representatives with a training on the operation and maintenance (OM) of the provided solar systems. During the reporting period, 111 out of 429 public service facilities representatives have received the training on operation and maintenance (OM). For the remaining 318 representatives the training is planned to take place once the systems are installed in the facilities, which is expected to be finalized by Q3 of 2024.

The **Solar online platform (Solar Inventar)** has been developed by UNDP to map solar system interventions by all stakeholders in the country. It provides a centralized hub for inputting and sharing information about solar projects.

The first milestone of entering 1000 interventions has been completed, which would enable users to track and analyze solar system data. The second milestone of entering another 1000 interventions to the platform database has started during the reporting period.



A screenshot of the developed Solar Online Platform

The water desalination in Al-Hodeida city in Al-Hali district initiative has been started under UNDP procurement competitive process and the supplier is in the final stage of installation and commissioning the plant and the handover process is expected to be at the end of January 2024.



The installed water desalination in Al-Hoedeutah governorate.

Output 2.2:

Broadened the volume of skilled workforce in the sector of renewable energy.

Indicator	Target		Progress Against targets			Status
	Overall	Annual	Reporting period	Cumulative	%	
1.2.2.1 Number of technicians certified in advanced vocational solar skills (disaggregated by women/men, age), with support of the intervention	100	50	0	0	0%	The capacity of both public and private skills provider institutions within the project's target area was found weak for advanced-level training. Thus, ILO, in collaboration with UNDP and private solar import companies, has decided to train existing craftspeople and solar technicians instead of recruiting new apprentices.
1.2.2.2 Number of Cash for Work (C4W) and Food/Cash Assistance for Assets (FFA) beneficiaries certified as solar energy technicians (disaggregated by women/men, age), with support of the intervention	200	100	138	138	138%	<i>Achieved</i>
1.2.2.3 Number of people who increase their knowledge and skills on decentralized renewable energy innovation and solutions (disaggregated by: women/men, age), with support of the intervention	250	50	0	0	0%	Will be conducted in 2024 as the process of partner selection has been finalized.
1.2.2.4 Number of solar/wind energy mini-grids established in small and medium markets and commercial centres and shops, with support of the intervention	1	1	1	1	100%	<i>Achieved</i>

The rapid assessment, site visits, and discussions revealed that both public and private skills provider institutions have limited capacity in the target rural districts, with insufficient equipment, materials, facilities, and experienced instructors for advanced-level solar energy training. Although the capacity of Aden and Sana'a TVET centres was considered acceptable, requirements for levels of education for training exceeded the educational attainment of most of ERRY III target groups. Furthermore, it requires substantial logistical and financial resources, which make the options of using Sana'a and Aden TVET institutes as impractical. Following critical consideration, the ILO and UNDP have decided to focus on training apprentices who have completed solar energy technician courses as well as existing master craftspeople. Therefore, the training will be carried out in the second half of 2024.

Under this output, UNDP has developed a Request for Proposal (RFP) to solicit service providers to provide training on decentralized renewable energy innovation and solutions. The RFP is currently at the advertising stage. Once the advertisement period is closed, the process of reviewing submitted RFPs will begin. It is expected that this process for hiring IP will be finalized by Q1 2024.

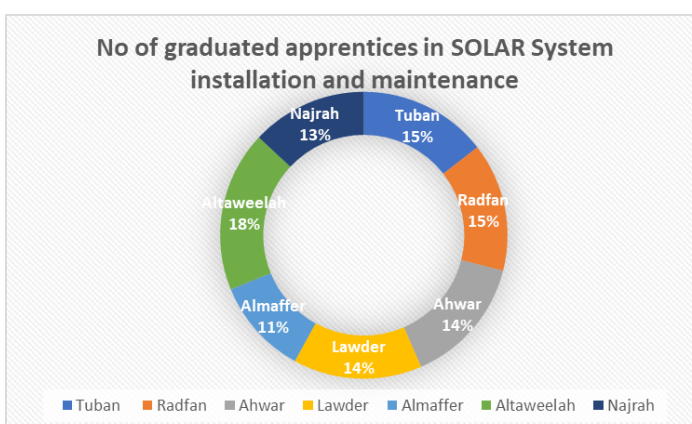
For increasing the knowledge and skills on decentralized renewable energy innovation and solutions, UNDP started the process of selecting qualified partner. Implementation is planned to start in the coming year.

The mini-grid system was initiated in ERRY II and continued to be supported during ERRY III to ensure that it is operational. The mini-grid system aims to provide sustainable and reliable energy access to the targeted communities. The construction of solar/wind energy mini grid is currently in progress. The mini grid is under construction in Ash Shamayatayn district (Taiz). There was some delay in the delivery of this intervention as result of the delay in manufacturing the wind turbine, payment transfer between local company and the system controller in France due to the sensitivity to the payment received from Yemen, as well as the challenges of importing materials to Yemen. However, it is expected to be completed by Q1 2024.



Installation of Power transformer in Wind-Solar Hybrid Mini-grid Ash Shamayatayn district, Taiz governorate

Under the renewable energy component, the ILO has integrated renewable energy training into its apprenticeship program, training 138 beneficiaries in solar energy maintenance, installation, and operations where 95 apprentices have been certified in the Southern districts (Tuban, Radfan, Ahwar, Lawdar, and Al-ma'fer) and 43 beneficiaries in



Northern districts (Najrah and Almahweet). Moreover, apprentice graduates received high-quality toolkits to ease their transition into work.

Overall, these efforts by the joint programme contributed to promoting renewable energy adoption, improving access to clean energy solutions, and empowering individuals and communities through capacity building and income generation opportunities.

Intermediate outcome 3:

Increased sustainable production and productivity of crop and livestock in crisis-affected communities.

FAO distributed high quality certified sorghum and millet seeds to 6,160 farmers to improve their yields and productivity. About 6,160 hectares of land were planted with the distributed seeds out of which 5,785 hectares were planted with sorghum and 375 hectares were planted with millet. FAO additionally is supporting the beneficiaries to establish Community Seed Banks to provide good storage and quality crop seeds. The designs and BoQ for four community seed banks have been prepared and under final procurement process. The selected sites for the seed banks are in the high production areas affected by the war. 180 beneficiaries for livestock fattening value chain received 54.5 MT of Molasses to improve the nutrition, increase production and productivity of their livestock. 1,690 of the women engaged in the dairy value chain received the dairy processing inputs to improve the milk and dairy products quality and hygiene.

Indicator	Target		Progress Against targets			Status
	Overall	Annual	Reporting period	Cumulative	%	
1.3.1 Number of targeted farmers producing seeds (disaggregated by women/men and age)	400	0	0	0	0%	Ongoing Designs and BoQs for community seed banks prepared, tender announced, and under final procurement process.
1.3.2 Average quantity (kg) of key crops produced per hectare	30% increase in yields of supported crops	1,500kg per hectare comparing to 1000kg per ha (50% increment)	0	0	0%	Ongoing Seeds distributed to 560 BNFs, after harvesting, this indicator can be measured.
1.3.3 Area (ha) planted with each crop provided	7,750 ha for Sorghum, 1,222 ha for cowpea and 1,250 ha for millet	5,785 ha for Sorghum, 375 ha for millet	5,785 ha planted with sorghum and 375 ha planted with millet	5,785 ha planted with sorghum and 375 ha planted with millet	75%	On-track Beneficiary have been selected. Sorghum and millet seeds were distributed to 6,160 HHs.
1.3.4 Average quantity of milk produced per animal	30% increase in milk yields of supported goats and sheep	5%	0%	0%	0%	On-track (Some inputs have been distributed to some BNFs, Other inputs (bran and feed blocks) is under procurement.
1.3.5 Average number of livestock per household	5 live goats and sheep	0	0	0	0%	On-track Beneficiary registration and verifications is ongoing in the north. Inputs (live animals and animal feeds have been procured, pending delivery and distribution

Output 3.1:

Improved capacities in climate smart agriculture (CSA) of farmers vulnerable to climate shocks.

Under this output, FAO has carried out a number of activities including conducting discussions on the LOA with the Agriculture Research and Extensions Authority (AREA) to conduct CSA baseline study and set up of CSA technology groups, inputs procurement, designing community seed banks, provision of training to MAIF and WUA member.

Indicator	Target		Progress Against targets			Status
	Overall	Annual	Reporting period	Cumulative	%	
1.3.1.1. Number of farmers who join the Climate Smart Agriculture technology groups set up with support of the intervention (disaggregated by women/men and age)	120 farmers	120	0	0	0%	6 CSA technology groups identified. 3 in the north & 3 in south. Processing of formalization is ongoing
1.3.1.2. Number of farmers who receive high-quality landrace seeds adapted to climate shocks with support of the intervention (disaggregated by women/men and age)	1,000 farmers	500	560	560	112%	Achieved
1.3.1.3. Number of extension staff officers who increased their knowledge on climate smart agriculture and technologies with support of the intervention (disaggregated by women/men and age)	50 extension staff officers	25	27	27	108%	Achieved
1.3.1.4. Number of Water Users Associations (WUA) supported to promote efficient water and land management	15 WUAs	10	3	3	30%	3 WUA activated in south (Abyan) beneficiaries' registration in the north was completed in December 2023, which delayed reactivating of WUA.
1.3.1.5. Number of irrigation blocks set up and provided with appropriate technologies (solar systems, and drip irrigation) in the communities with support of the intervention	5 irrigation blocks	5	0	0	0%	Procurement of irrigation kits delayed. Delivery of the kits is expected at the end of March 2024.
1.3.1.6. Number of people reached by the awareness campaigns on watershed promotion (disaggregated by women/men) with support of the intervention	210 men and 90 women	150	0	0	0%	Beneficiaries' registration was completed in December for the north. Indicators will be achieved by September 2024.

The follow summary highlights the achievements made during this reporting period.

- Two training sessions on climate smart agriculture (CSA) practices were conducted to build capacity of 30 selected staff (20 men and 10 female) from the Agriculture Research and

Extensions Authority (AREA). The key topics covered during the training include climate change events and impacts, climate change adaptation and mitigation, climate smart agriculture practices.

- FAO signed a Letter of Agreement with AREA in the north and south to implement the CSA baseline study, establish CSA technology groups and deliver the CSA training. AREA developed and submitted the CSA baseline assessment methodology including the tools and questionnaires to FAO for technical review and approval. The methodology and tools were reviewed, validated, and approved by the technical committees /experts from MAI in the north and MAIF in the south. The survey was conducted through household interviews, FGD and KII, data collection completed, data analysis and report writing are ongoing. The final report is expected by the end of February 2024 to inform development of technology groups. Additionally, another LOA was signed with the Seeds Multiplication Authority in the south to oversee the procurement and distribution of seeds through community seed banks established as part of the project.
- 560 beneficiaries in Lahj and Abyan governorates have been engaged in CSA activities based on predetermined criteria and have received high-quality landrace cereal and tomato seeds that are tolerant to vagaries of climate to change-agents for climate change actions and promote CSA approach in agriculture production.
- Three WUAs were identified in Abyan to be targeted with the water activities. 29 irrigation sites, Shallow wells, Wadi bank protection activities, canal entrances, and Harvesting rain and springs water tanks were identified to be rehabilitated in Tuban district in Lahij, Haydan district in Sa'adah gov., Najrah and Al-Shaghadirah in Hajjah and Al-Taweelah in Al-Mahweet gov. Designs and BoQs were prepared.
- 185 key individuals from Water User Associations (WUAs) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MAIF) were trained in water management, harvesting, irrigation activities, and other topics related to sustainable agriculture production. This training is aimed to enhance their knowledge and skills in efficient water utilization and sustainable agricultural practices.
- Technical Specifications, designs, and bill of quantities (BoQs) for four community seed banks were prepared and under final stage of the procurement process. These seed banks will be established in Haydan, Bani al-Awam, and Bajil districts in the north, and Khanfar district in the south. The community seed banks will facilitate the storage and marketing of locally produced improved seeds, preserving local traits, and reducing vulnerability of communities to seed supply shortages.

Output 3.2:

Strengthened the capacity of vulnerable farming households to develop different agricultural value chains.

Indicator	Target		Progress Against targets			Status
	Overall	Annual	Reporting period	Cumulative	%	
1.3.2.1. Number of the formed crops, livestock, dairy farmer field Schools	80 FFS	30	61	61	203%	Achieved
1.3.2.2. Number of Community Animal Health Workers (CAHW) trained and provided with veterinary kits (disaggregated by women/men, and age), with support of the intervention	50 new CAHWs	50	50	50	100%	Achieved
1.3.2.3. Number of farmers provided with inputs (seeds, training, marketing support) to improve value chains [disaggregated by type of product (cereal, sorghum/ millet, tomato, coffee) and women/men], with support of the intervention	13,400 farmers (9,000 cereal, 3,900 tomato, 500 coffee)	13,400 farmers (9,000 cereal, 3,900 tomato, 500 coffee)	7,860 (6,060 Sorghum and millet, 1,800 tomato)	7,860	58%	On-track
1.3.2.4. Number of farmers who receive high quality animal feeds (wheat bran, feed blocks and molasses) (disaggregated by women/men) with support of the intervention	6,000	6,000	2,110	2,110	35%	On-track
1.3.2.5. Number of farmers provided with small ruminants (disaggregated by women/men) with support of the intervention	1,000	500	0	0	0%	Ongoing (BNFs are under final registration process, inputs (live animals and feeds) were already procured and ready for delivery and distribution)
1.3.2.6. Number of dairy producers supported with training and dairy equipment (disaggregated by women/men), with support of the intervention	3,500	2,500	1490	1490	59%	On-track
1.3.2.7. Number of SMEs in agriculture value chains provided with training, link with markets and link with MFIs (disaggregated by the owner of SMEs women/men and age)	47 SMEs in AVC	40	0	0		Ongoing (BNFs were selected in south and under selection in north)

During this reporting period, FAO has implemented the following activities under this output:

- A total of **22,200** beneficiaries have been registered for the interventions under Outcome 3 as detailed in annex 2 table 7. Their data has been uploaded in the Kobo Toolbox. In the northern governorates, the registration process is in its final stages of data cleaning, ensuring accuracy and completeness. This process ensures that the most vulnerable beneficiaries are selected, accountability to affected populations is maintained, and gender considerations incorporated. The verification exercise covers dairy, livestock fattening, water infrastructure, and agriculture

inputs. The findings from the verification will be compiled into a report for review and approval by the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) specialist. However, beneficiaries' registration in the north was delayed due to delay in getting the clearances from SCMCHA.

- **FFS Master Trainers Training:** A total of 36 participants attended two training sessions for Farmer Field School (FFS) Master Trainers. These Master Trainers have played a crucial role in facilitating FFS groups, promoting learning and knowledge sharing through regular visits to established FFS in the targeted areas. Their expertise has contributed to building the capacity of farmers in implementing sustainable agricultural practices.
- **Farmer Field School (FFS):**
61 FFSs established targeting **1,547 farmers (42% women)** to be enhanced through extensive training program, FFS, extension materials, practical demonstrations on Good Agriculture Practices, and with the delivery of inputs.
- **Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs):** The programme supported the establishment of the basic veterinary services through training CAHWs in the targeted districts which suffer from the lack of veterinary services. A total of 50 new (CAHW) (35 males and 15 females) have been trained to become qualified community animal health workers (CAHWs). These CAHWs will assist their communities in accessing essential veterinary and extension services. Through a cost-recovery approach, they will provide services that are affordable to their communities while also generating income through their other business activities, ensuring sustainability. The training consists of topics related to animal health care basics, animal diseases, and animal nutrition.
- 154 MT of high-quality Sorghum seeds and Millet seeds were distributed to 6160 beneficiaries to support the crops value chain. The distributed seeds facilitated planting 6160 ha of lands. This activity has a good impact on improving food security in the targeted areas. In addition to that, 1800 beneficiaries were supported with the tomato value chain inputs through distribution of tomato seeds.
- **Fattening Value Chain:** 2,180 beneficiaries started to receive the animals feed and fattening value chain inputs as 54.5 MT of the Molasses were distributed to improve the nutrition of the animals and increase their production.
- **1,437 of the women** engaged in the dairy value chain **received the dairy processing inputs** to improve the milk and dairy products quality and hygiene.
- **Dairy Processing Centers:** Two dairy processing centers, located in Tuban (Lahj) and al-Marawea (Hodaidah), were provided with the necessary equipment for milk processing and packaging. The dairy equipment in the Saber dairy processing center is fully operational, and its members were trained on equipment maintenance and infection prevention control measures to ensure high hygienic standards during the processing of dairy and its derivatives. The dairy processing centers



A woman benefitting from the animal feeds distributed in Lahj governorate.

will help to increase the availability of safe and affordable dairy products for the Yemeni households as well as increasing the income of the dairy processing groups.

- **Marketing Centers:** Two marketing centers were established in Lahj governorate for the *Saber* dairy women's group and in Bajil district, Hodaidah governorate, to improve the dairy marketing value chain. These centers were equipped with necessary facilities, including a refrigerator, air conditioning, solar systems, shelves, and other necessary equipment, to support effective marketing of the dairy products. One marketing center has been delivered to Sa'ada and is under final process for establishment. These activities implemented by the ERRY Joint Programme contribute to enhancing agricultural practices, promoting sustainable agriculture, strengthening value chains, and improving access to safe and high-quality dairy products.



Installed dairy marketing center in Saber, Lahj Governorate.

The Dairy Processing Unit in Tuban: A Story of Sustainable Livelihood and Women's Empowerment

In the Saber area of Tuban district, the ERRY III Joint Programme, through the support of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), has significantly enhanced the operations of a dairy processing unit. With the provision of advanced equipment from FAO, the unit has seen improvements in efficiency and productivity. Furthermore, the installation of a solar system by UNDP ensures a dependable source of energy, crucial for the unit's day-to-day operations.

Samia, a beneficiary of the programme, has successfully managed her farm and leveraged the support provided to develop a thriving business. The enhanced dairy processing unit now serves as a cornerstone for sustainable livelihoods for women in the community. The ERRY joint programme's contribution has been instrumental in expanding the unit's business and extending its reach to a broader market.



The availability of safe and high-quality dairy products has increased due to the joint efforts of the ERRY programme and its partners. This initiative not only addresses immediate livelihood needs but also contributes to the long-term economic resilience of the community. Women's groups in Tuban are now utilizing the equipment provided by the joint programme to produce and distribute dairy products, generating income and supporting the most vulnerable people in Yemen.

With continued backing from the ERRY joint programme, the dairy processing unit exemplifies the sustainable change that can be achieved through focused development efforts, empowering local entrepreneurs, and strengthening the community's economy.

- Three Agro-processing centers have been delivered to Al-Taweelah district, Al-Mahweet governorate, Sa'adah city in Sa'adah governorate and to Bajil district in Al-Hodaidah governorate. The centers are under equipping to be ready for the processing activity. The BNFs have been selected. once the training completed, the Agro-processing women will start producing the different products such as the tomato paste, Ketchup, Spice, Carrot and Mango Jam, and others. The Agroprocessing center was provided with a solar system for consistent power, shelves and currently finalizing the establishment.
- **Agriculture Value Chain assessment:** A value chain assessment was conducted in the southern governorates of Abyan, Taiz, and Lahij to identify leverage points to improve chain performance and analyze the marketing systems and the main actors in the agriculture, dairy, and livestock sector.
 - The assessment involved four interconnected steps: data collection, research, value chain mapping, and analysis.
 - Data collection was conducted by two implementing partners who were trained by the M&E specialist.
 - Research was conducted to understand the context of the value chains and the challenges that they face.
 - Value chain mapping was used to visualize the relationships between the different actors in the value chains.
 - Analysis was conducted to identify the constraints within the value chains and to develop recommendations for improvement.

The M&E specialist led the preparation of the value chain terms of reference (ToR) and tools with the international value chain consultant. The M&E specialist also led the first stage of data collection by training two implementing partners on value chain assessment, which included dairy, seeds, vegetables, and fattening. The second stage of data collection will be on livestock value chain (meat and ruminants).

A total of 850 people were surveyed, including 755 one-on-one structured conversations with potential value chain actors (consumers, processors, producers, wholesalers, and traders), 18 small structured focused group discussions consisting of 5 to 10 participants from a target market segment or a cross-section of a value chain, and finally 35 qualitative in-depth interviews with key informants and stakeholders of the local market's heads under the targeted governorates as shown in annex 2 table 8.

The survey included the market prices, available water resources, water secrecy issue, market actors, market information, accesses to traditional or mixed market, constraints, and opportunities of value chain line production.

The collected data through the implementing partners in the southern governorates was analysed using the value chain framework to reveal constraints within the chains that prevent or limit the exploitation of end market opportunities. The findings of the assessment will be used to develop interventions to improve the performance of the value chains and to increase the incomes of the people involved.

After data collection from key stakeholders, a value chain mapping exercise will be conducted to highlight market segments, participants/actors, their functions, and horizontal and vertical linkages, as well as opportunities and constraints.

On the other hand, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) have agreed to coordinate a value chain assessment to ensure that activities complement each other and result in a greater synergetic impact. In addition, FAO has sent to the UNDP details of the equipment that will be provided to the dairy processing centers to be targeted with the solar system for their operation as well as the solar requirements for Tiham Development Authority which will assist in facilitating the implementation of the activities in Hodaidah governorate.

As a result, the ILO developed terms of reference (TORs) for conducting a gender-sensitive value chain assessment using the ILO's gender-sensitive methodology for value chain development. The goal of the assessment is to identify and implement interventions that increase women's integration in the selected value chains, and to identify constraints to decent work creation in those value chains. The ILO is currently in the process of selecting a partner to conduct the assessment in the coming months.

During the reporting period, ILO in close collaboration with an experienced international consultant and its regional technical specialist, thoroughly reviewed and revised SFD's four core manuals aligning them with the principles and methodologies of the Employment Intensive Investment Programme (EIIP). This task involved updating the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) SFD using such as governing Labour-Intensive Public Work/Cash for Work, Community Contracting, Environmental and Social Safeguards, and Occupational Safety and Health.

By integrating EIIP principles, these updated SOPs not only streamline procedures for Labour Intensive Public Works in Yemen but also ensure compliance with national labour regulations and global standards for decent work. Implementation of these SOPs implies a critical milestone and marks a crucial step in transitioning from emergency cash-based initiatives to more labour-intensive approaches, empowering stakeholders to enhance programme efficiency and promote opportunities for decent employment.

To facilitate widespread dissemination and adoption, the ILO will organize a workshop with the aim of introducing and familiarizing stakeholders with the updated SOPs. Additionally, the workshop will serve as a platform to advocate for the adoption of these SOPs among relevant agencies, including UN bodies, international NGOs, and governmental and local partners engaged in Cash for Work initiatives in Yemen.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) have agreed to coordinate a value chain assessment to ensure that activities complement each other and result in a greater synergetic impact.

Following a series of discussions with the FAO on the sector selection process, four value chains (dairy, agro-processing, tomato & coffee) were selected for further analysis and planning. Because of the huge potential to increase income, create jobs, and improve competitiveness as one of Yemen's strategic cash crops, the ILO prioritized the coffee supply chain among the four value chains that FAO is currently focused on under ERY III. Against this backdrop, the ILO hired an international consultant to conduct a gender-sensitive assessment to identify the specific constraints hindering coffee growers from achieving their full potential. This assessment will bring in a specific perspective

to understand decent work deficits and design a holistic intervention strategy to increase productivity and incomes while improving working conditions.

Within this scope, the consultant will identify existing coffee value chain programmes, mapping key actors, and finding gaps in which the ILO, through the ERRY III joint programme, can strategically intervene. Priorities involve addressing decent work deficits, expanding market access, and identifying areas suited for ILO intervention in which other development partners may not be intervening. Furthermore, the consultant will assist the ILO in developing a proposal to invest further in supporting key actors in the coffee supply chain, ensuring better coordination and collaboration to advance decent work.

Intermediate Outcome 4:

Improved access of women, youth, and other vulnerable groups to food and income opportunities.

The joint programme has made significant strides in empowering targeted communities to enhance their income and livelihoods through a range of activities. These include engaging in short-term employment opportunities to improve food access, rehabilitation of communal assets like roads and water harvesting schemes, agricultural projects, and markets. Furthermore, targeted vulnerable groups received entrepreneurship training, financial grants, and support to establish microbusinesses, creating sustainable livelihood opportunities. Additionally, vulnerable youth and women participated in apprenticeship programs, acquiring market-demanded skills and certifications to enhance employability and access to decent jobs.

Indicator	Target		Progress Against targets			Status
	Overall	Annual	Reporting period	Cumulative	%	
1.4.1. Number of community-based assets established (disaggregated by type)	314 by end of 2024	150	171	171	114%	achieved
1.4.2. Number of microbusinesses established by women, youth, and other vulnerable groups (disaggregated by women/men entrepreneurs and age) that receive credits/funding from micro-finance institutions (MFIs)	3,000 by end of 2024	1,500	750	750	50%	<i>On Track Reported BNFs started their projects, and the rest are in the process of developing their own microbusiness plans</i>

During the reporting period, a total of **171** community-based assets were established or rehabilitated. This encompassed a diverse range of initiatives, including the creation of 41 assets through the Food for Assets (FFA) intervention, 41 assets through Cash for Work (CFW) under the livelihood component, 89 assets through the Local Governance and Social Cohesion supported projects. Over **7,690** households, 53,830 individuals, have directly benefited from cash transfers for their engagement in the Food Assistance for Assets and Short-term employment opportunities.

These efforts have not only significantly improved the physical infrastructure but have also had an impact on the accessibility of essential services for targeted households and communities. This includes improved access to vital facilities such as health centers, schools, roads, markets, and others. Around 114,800 people benefit from community assets created and rehabilitated by the programme.

Furthermore, a total of **750** beneficiaries have been supported with business skills training and seed capital to establish their own income-generating projects. This has led to the successful establishment of a diverse range of microbusinesses such as such as grocery stores, machinery and equipment maintenance, vegetable sales, incense production, photography services, and others, which contributes to economic growth and creating employment opportunities within the community.

Through its comprehensive approach, combining short-term employment opportunities and community asset rehabilitation, and the creation of sustainable livelihood opportunities, the programme has supported targeted communities to improve their food security situation and access to basic services, which contributes to sustainable development and enhancing the quality of life for vulnerable communities.

Output 4.1:

Gender-sensitive short-term income opportunities created for vulnerable individuals in the communities.

Indicator	Target		Progress Against targets			Status
	Overall	Annual	Reporting period	Cumulative	%	
1.4.1.1. Number of people who receive Food/Cash Assistance for Assets (FFA) (disaggregated by women/men and age), with the support of the intervention	8,135	2,711	2,890	2,890	107%	<i>Achieved</i>
1.4.1.2. Number of people who receive Food/Cash Assistance for Training (FFT) (disaggregated by women/men and age), with the support of the intervention	400	134	135	135	101%	<i>Achieved</i>
1.4.1.3. Total amount of cash transferred to targeted beneficiaries (disaggregated by women/men and age)	\$ 5,377,050	\$ 1,792,350	\$1,579,992	\$1,579,992	88%	<i>On-track</i>
1.4.1.4. Number of beneficiaries who get recognized prior learning (RPL) through tests and certify their skills (disaggregated by women/men)	200	50	0	0	0%	<i>On hold⁴</i>
1.4.1.5. Number of people provided with emergency employment through 3x6 approach (disaggregated by women/men)	4,800	4,800	4,800	4,800	100%	<i>Achieved</i>
1.4.1.6. Number of community markets/ assets restored through 3x6 emergency employment, with the support of the intervention	24	24	41	41	171%	<i>Achieved</i>

⁴ This activity will be replaced by increasing number of targeted beneficiaries under skills development component; justification for such modification has been communicated to donors.

WFP FFA / FFT Interventions:

WFP, under ERRY III, designed and implemented its resilience and livelihoods activities in 10 districts across 7 governorates of the country to mainly contribute to intermediate outcome 4 of the joint programme - **Improved access of women, youth, and other vulnerable groups to food and income opportunities**. 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).

The key achievements made by WFP component in 2023 are highlighted below:

- WFP engaged **2,890** households (20,230 people) to work in **41** different assets through FFA activities. The constructed/rehabilitated community-based assets are mostly related to, rural road rehabilitation, water harvesting schemes, agricultural projects, social infrastructure and schools. The selection of these projects was based on the priorities identified by the communities in the targeted areas. More than **59,000** people indirectly benefitted from the assets created and rehabilitated by WFP in 2023. The sectoral breakdown of the assets constructed / rehabilitated through the WFP component is as follows:
 - Constructed and rehabilitated 13 water schemes. The completion of the water source schemes has increased the access and availability to clean drinking water.
 - Furthermore, a water tank with a capacity of 90 cubic meters has been created to ensure a reliable water supply for about 300 households.
 - Constructed and rehabilitated about 35 km length of rural roads across 22 communities. The completion of the road projects has increased access to markets, water sources, schools, health facilities and other basic services.



Water tank built in Bajil, Hudaydah



Road rehabilitation in Al-Maqatirah, Lahj



Al-Maghrabah road rehabilitation in Milhan, Mahweet

- Constructed and rehabilitated 11 classrooms. The construction of new classrooms has accommodated more students in better building facilities. This has also contributed to an increase in the number of students in the schools.
- Rehabilitation of a health facility in Lawder district.
- Completed the rehabilitation of a youth club ensuring the holistic well-being of young individuals in the entire Bajil district by promoting their physical and mental health.
- Efforts have been made to improve agricultural infrastructure. This includes restoring 4.3 kilometers of irrigation channels to facilitate proper water distribution for farming activities.
- Restoration of 23 hectares of agricultural land across 7 different areas, focusing on land protection and reclamation to enhance agricultural productivity.

Agriculture is the primary economic activity for the residents of Yemen's Lahj Governorate. Years of conflict and neglect led to the collapse of the irrigation canal system in the governorate. Despite significant efforts by farmers to protect their farms and improve their standard of living, their efforts remain inadequate due to their limited capacities.

Mohammed Ali is a farmer from Lahj Governorate. Like the rest of the farmers in his area, Mohammed struggled to make a living from his farm. He relied on a fuel-powered pump system to irrigate his farmland from groundwater.

"My farm was in a dire state. The floodwaters had caused the walls to collapse, and the soil was rapidly eroding," says Mohammed. "These conditions made it extremely difficult for me to cultivate crops and support my family."



Mohammed Ali, a farmer from Lahj Governorate, points to the newly constructed gabion.

Due to price instability and water shortages, many farmers are abandoning their farms in search of alternative livelihoods. Moreover, farmers could not benefit from rainwater, which was often wasted due to lack of a proper drainage infrastructure. This has led to degradation of farmlands, affecting farmers' incomes and food security. If properly managed, rainwater and floodwater can be used to

irrigate farms and recharge groundwater.

- **135** women have been engaged in different income/skill generation trainings through FFT. Approximately, 100 percent of the total participants of the activities were women.
- WFP transferred a total of U SD 1,580,000 to its targeted beneficiaries with the aim of supporting their immediate food security needs.

These achievements collectively demonstrate a positive impact of the resilience and livelihood activities implemented by WFP and its implementing partners.



FFT Participants in Al-Ma'afer district, Taizz Governorate.

Beneficiary 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 their 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.

FFA seeks to provide a household transfer to cover the food consumption gap of moderately food insecure households, while improving access to and use of functional natural and physical assets by targeted food-insecure communities, including women, youth, and vulnerable groups. Assets aim at restoring food systems, increasing agricultural production, increasing protection against natural shocks, and strengthening access to markets and social services.

FFT seeks to build and strengthen human capital, especially women and youth through vocational/skill trainings such as crafts (sewing & tailoring), literacy and managerial courses, and incense production and hair dressing.

Cash transfer

WFP distributed approximately USD 1,580,000 to 2,890 participants beneficiaries with the aim of supporting their immediate food security needs. WFP used Al-Amal bank to distribute cash to the beneficiaries. In addition to the bank's branches, cash distribution outlets were also established by the bank for the beneficiaries to receive their cash entitlements from the designated distribution outlets. Protection challenges were considered while identifying the distribution outlets to ensure that the outlets are secure and easily accessible to the beneficiaries.

WFP's SCOPE was used in the southern areas, by which beneficiaries can withdraw their incentives from widespread mobile Point of Sales (mPOS) through SCOPE card. While cash in envelope modality still the active approach in the norther areas.

Immediate Impact of WFP's interventions under ERRY III

- *WFP's intervention addressed the 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.*
- *A positive impact on the Food Consumption Score (FCS), a measure of food security and dietary quality. The resilience and livelihoods activities have contributed to an impressive increase in the FCS, indicating improved access to nutritious food for the targeted beneficiaries.*
- *Furthermore, the monitoring results have demonstrated a reduction in coping strategies employed by the beneficiaries. Coping strategies are actions taken by individuals or households to manage food insecurity or economic challenges. The resilience and livelihoods activities have effectively reduced the reliance on such coping strategies, indicating improved resilience and stability among the beneficiaries. The report mentions a specific percentage reduction in coping strategies compared to the baseline. However, the exact percentage is not provided in the provided context.*
- *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 labours to unskilled labours, as the latter are the main beneficiaries in the projects.*

Enhancing Livelihoods Through Infrastructure: The Kod Odayrah School Project

The Kod Odayrah School rehabilitation in Tuban, part of the WFP ERRY Joint Programme's Food Assistance for Assets component, not only transformed educational facilities but also significantly improved livelihoods and food security for the local community. This multifaceted intervention provided immediate cash incentives and imparted new skills to participants involved in the construction, thereby enhancing their income-generating capabilities.



Participants who contributed to the construction benefited from the dual advantage of receiving immediate financial support and acquiring valuable skills that have potential long-term income sustainability. Notably, the initiative also paved the way for some participants to engage in the ILO apprenticeship programme, further enhancing their vocational expertise and employability in sectors such as construction, solar energy maintenance, and more.

This strategic approach ensured that while the school's physical infrastructure was being enhanced, the community's economic resilience was being simultaneously built. Over 31,000

beneficiaries, including women, youth, and vulnerable groups, benefited from cash transfers, which helped them meet essential needs such as food and medication. The project exemplifies how integrating livelihood improvement with asset creation can foster comprehensive community development, improve food security, and support sustainable economic growth.

The recognized prior learning (RPL). The RPL activity was initially planned to help create sustainable jobs for FFA participants through identifying their existing and newly acquired skills for skills recognition by using the existing RPL mechanism and by strengthening the skills recognition system by developing new competency standards. This was designed to build a pilot for RPL system in coordination with TVET institute; however, the current political and security situation in Yemen is not conducive to carrying out the above-mentioned activities properly and fully as originally planned. Therefore, ILO would modify this intervention through expanding apprenticeship component that works best in Yemen's current operating environment.

Furthermore, ILO worked toward developing and drafting SOPs to help implementing partners to shift from CfW/FFA to EIIP. In this regard, ILO has contracted with an international consultant to review the existing SOPs on labour intensive work program / cash for work and shifting into EIIP approaches. The SOPs were developed in consultation with the Sustainable Development Foundation (SDF), which has extensive experience in implementing CfW and FFA programs. The SOPs focus on identifying and addressing the gaps in the SDF manual on CfW, and on discussing the pros and cons of implementing such interventions with other partners, such as the World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) who are working in CfW and FFA. The SOPs are intended to help implementing partners make informed decisions about whether to shift from CfW and FFA to EIIPs. They are also intended to ensure that EIIPs are implemented in a way that is consistent with international labour standards and that they contribute to sustainable development.

UNDP Livelihoods interventions:

UNDP's Livelihoods activities have made considerable progress towards achieving the overall targets during this reporting period. Successfully, all the activities planned for 2023 under the livelihood component have been completed. This resulted in supporting targeted beneficiaries with short employment opportunities, asset rehabilitation, capacity building, and grant financing for microbusinesses establishment.

UNDP partners in North & South completed short employment support by creating 4,800 emergent jobs for targeted youth and women. Additionally, the community assets rehabilitation support was also completed in all targeted locations.

Most importantly, UNDP partners, especially in Abyan, Taiz, and Al-Mahweet succeeded in partnering with local communities as well as local authorities to work on selected community assets. This collaboration resulted in magnifying intervention outcomes.

Community assets rehabilitation

Under the short employment support, UNDP managed to rehabilitate 41 assets including initiatives that were implemented during the 10-day of emergent employment. Below is a highlight for the main stories sampled from each of the targeted governorates.

In **Al-Mahweet**, UNDP implemented several assets restoration activities in Al-Tawilah district. Remarkably, the implementing partner, LMMPO, succeeded in striking many initiatives in collaboration and contribution from local communities to develop some assets. The total assets supported under the community assets rehabilitation activity is 7.

Road pavement in Wadi La'ah subdistrict

For the isolated community of Wadi La'ah, an area nestled between rugged mountains, the existing dirt road presented a paralyzing obstacle. Narrow, treacherous, and impassable for larger vehicles, it strangled economic activity and access to essential services. With such conditions, motorcycles offered the only critical option, leaving countless residents, including pregnant women seeking critical medical care, vulnerable and isolated.

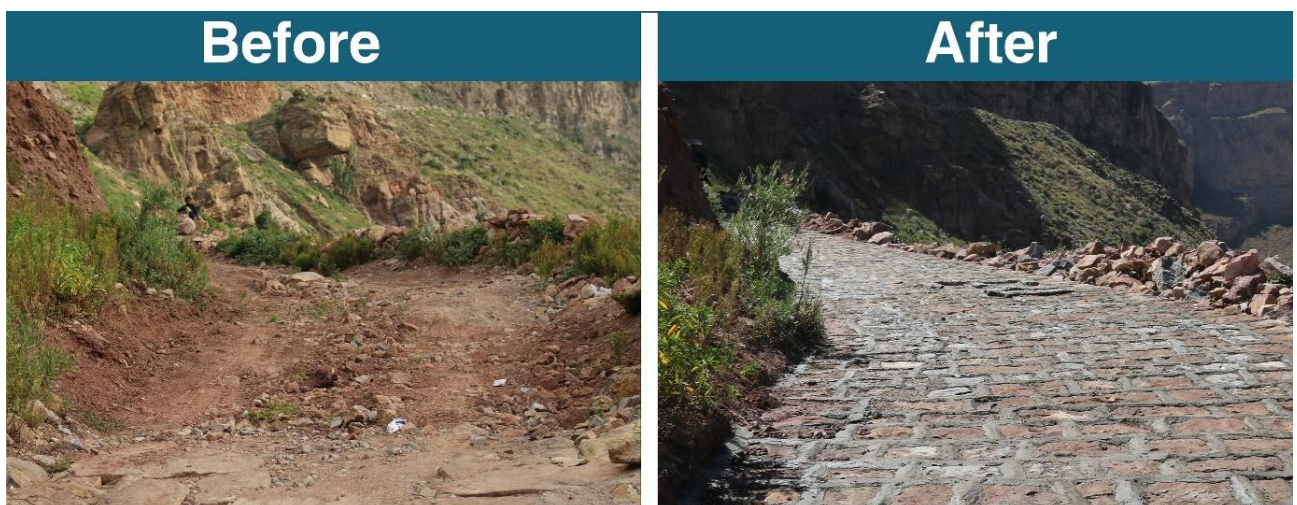
Recognizing the critical need for improved connectivity, ERRY "cash for work" activity provided both materials and work opportunities, empowering the community to actively participate and contribute to rehabilitating the most dangerous parts of the road.

The intervention managed to rehabilitate a total area of road paved is to pave 600 square meters. This will create a reliable and safe transportation link for the local community, promoting economic opportunities and social well-being.

Algarbi Road in Al-Tawilah

LMMPO launched a short-term employment activity to rehabilitate a bumpy and rugged road in Algarbi subdistrict. The road was not only exacerbating the difficult living conditions of people in 10 mountainous villages, but it had also caused deadly incidents and loss of several lives.

To pave this dangerous road, the project provided short-term employment opportunities for 200 participants, as well as equipment and materials. LMMPO mobilized local community contributions to maximize the intervention's impact. This partnership resulted in the refurbishment of around 3,000 square meters of road.



Two photos highlighting the road rehabilitation in Al-Gharbi, Tawilah district before and after the intervention.

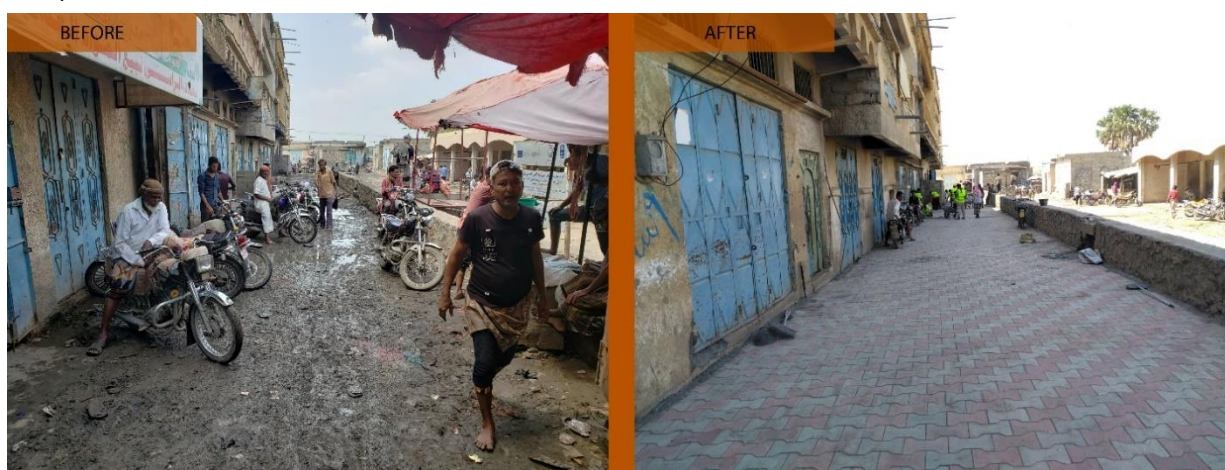
In **Hudaydah**, UNDP, through its implementing partner, LMMPO, implemented two asset restorations activity in Bajil district: one for existing local markets and one to supporting fishing value chain through establishing a micro fisher's market in Al-Orj, a remote rural subdistrict.

Rehabilitation of Bajil Central Market

Damaged central streets in Bajil district cause difficulties for sellers and shoppers. In the central market, the unpaved southern corridor served as a critical, yet inefficient, for pedestrians and shoppers. Walking through this passage was difficult especially during rainy seasons, disrupting vital foot traffic and causing more costs for small businesses and other income opportunities, ultimately hindering market efficiency and economic activity.

With ERRY support, the implementation of an interlocking stone pathway has successfully mitigated these challenges. This durable and environmentally friendly solution ensures year-round access, regardless of weather conditions. The dust-free and water-absorbent surface translates to reduced maintenance costs and a cleaner, more inviting environment for users. The project rehabilitated a total area of 288 square meters.

On the other side of the street, ERRY rehabilitated the median strip. It was almost damaged causing traffic troubles. This impactful intervention succeeded in refurbishing 188 m² of the street median strip.



Bajil Central Market before and after the rehabilitation, Hodeidah governorate.

In **Hajjah**, UNDP's implementing partner, SDF, delivered the CfW activity to rehabilitate several community assets. The support targeted three rural districts of Najrah, Shaghadirah, & Bani Al Awam. 14 road interventions across the three districts have been implemented. The road rehabilitation for these mountainous areas focuses on improving the conditions for the most dangerous parts of the main roads in the districts. The total area of road rehabilitated is 2,196 square meters in the three districts. These roads will benefit approximately 8,361 families and 49,054 people in 6 subdistricts across the 3 districts.

Preparing to support people with income generating activities, the rehabilitated rural roads will facilitate the movement of vehicles, reduce the costs of transporting goods and people, and make it easier for people to access nearby markets and service centers. This will ultimately support income opportunities and improve livelihoods.

Refurbishment of the technical institute in Shaghadirah. UNDP rehabilitated the Technical Institute in Al-Shaghadirah. Three classrooms in the district were renovated, new doors were installed, and plumbing and electric work. Sixty students will benefit from the restored classrooms and facilities at the Technical Institute.

Al-Amara Road - Al-Sha'athma sub-district - Najra District. The rehabilitation of this essential rural main road in Al-Shaathama sub-district, leading to the health unit being rehabilitated by the Social

Fund for Development (SFD), has facilitated vehicle movement, reduced transportation costs, and improved access to the health unit for approximately 230 families.

Al-Sabhiyya Road in Al-Sha'athama sub-district, Najra District. Al-Sabhiyya Road is one of the main roads in Al-Sha'athama and Najra Districts, leading to Al-Aman Market. The road's rugged condition and difficulty of access, especially during rains, have caused residents to suffer from high transportation costs and fees, particularly for shipping food and other goods from Al-Aman Market to nearby villages.



A road being rehabilitated through short-term employment opportunity in Najrah district, Hajjah.

The rehabilitation of Al-Sabhiyya Road has facilitated vehicle movement, reduced transportation costs, and improved access to Al-Aman Market for approximately 190 families, or about 1,051 individuals. The road rehabilitation has also improved access during rainy periods. The economic value of the road rehabilitation lies in reducing the time and cost of transporting agricultural products and food commodities to and from Al-Aman Market.

In **Abyan**, 14 small and medium assets have been restored and established in Ahwar & Lawdar. The assets were selected based on importance of supporting economic activities. They were also selected in coordination with local authorities and community leaders. The assets group is distributed on roads, markets, health facilities and agro and water assets.

The community assets restoration in Lawdar was more prominent. The number of assets and initiatives implemented in the district is 8, while in Ahwar they were 6 assets. More importantly, UNDP's implementing partner, TYF, collaborated with local authorities to join forces and mobilize funds to develop selected assets. Local authorities not only contributed to improved asset development but demonstrated an intense sense of ownership and collaboration.

Water irrigation channel in Duthaina, Lawdar

CFW laborers developed a water diversion structure and irrigation system in Aljawf village. This wall is important to improve irrigation water management to farms, while reducing risks of floods and increasing agricultural productivity as main income projects in the area.

Gabion wall in Alhudn Subdistrict, Lawdar

In ALhudn, short employment activity beneficiaries constructed a gabion wall enabling improved water distribution to agricultural lands. The wall will mitigate risks of floods in addition to supporting key villages road against floods. This wall will keep roads in good condition which will reduce time and costs of goods and services. Such initiative is directly making it easier for people to establish and develop their income projects. Community contributions were also influential to wall building.



A constructed gabion wall in Lawdar, Abyan

In **Taizz**, UNDP, through its implementing partner, Tamdeen Youth Foundation (TYF), implemented in Al Ma'fer district two significant interventions under the CfW activity. The first asset selected is the district only sports club and the second is the central market in Al Nashama. In addition to the importance of these assets for youth and general economic development in the district, working with these assets provided a good example on building strong partnership to develop community assets. The authorities contributed financially and logistically to the development of the targeted assets.

Restoring Street of Al Nashamah Market

Al Nashama market, the economic heart of Al Ma'fer district and a gateway to Taiz, was struggling. Deteriorating asphalt, riddled with cracks and missing sections, had transformed the market street into a treacherous path, especially during the rainy season when muddy puddles swallowed the passage whole. This hindered pedestrian movement and stifled market activity, impacting local businesses and entrepreneurs.

Recognizing the vital role of Al Nashama market in fostering economic growth and supporting micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the district and based on authorities' recommendation, the ERRY project undertook a strategic market rehabilitation intervention.

The intervention focused on a permanent solution to withstand all weather conditions. ERRY implemented the installation of 840 square meters of high-quality concrete slabs reinforced with steel. This robust infrastructure ensures year-round accessibility and a clean, stable surface for market users.



Al-Nashamah market before and after rehabilitation, Al-Ma'fer district, Taizz.

The revitalized market offers numerous benefits:

- **Enhanced Accessibility.** Improved pedestrian movement, fostering increased foot traffic and supporting market vendors.
- **Economic Stimulation.** A more vibrant and accessible market environment translates to improved business opportunities and potential growth for MSMEs.
- **Community Development.** Creating a clean, safe, and welcoming market space contributes to the overall well-being and sustainability of the Al Ma'fer community.

Sport facilities rehabilitation

The recent military conflicts in Al Ma'fer district severely impacted the Ash Shurooq Club, the community's primary youth sports facility. The existing infrastructure, including the sports hall shed, stadium walls, and various amenities, sustained severe damage, hindering crucial recreational and developmental activities for young people.

Recognizing the importance of Ash Shurooq Club to the well-being and growth of Al Ma'afer's youth, a collaborative rehabilitation initiative was launched. This project united the efforts of local authorities, and the engaged community to revitalize the sports facilities to conduct a comprehensive restoration. The rehabilitation activities include:



A sport centre rehabilitated through short-term employment opportunity in Al-Ma'afer district, Taizz.

- Rebuilding the destroyed sports hall shed to provide a safe and functional space for sporting activities.
- Maintenance and Renewal for windows, doors, bathrooms, and electrical systems to ensure the facility's operational efficiency.
- Repainting the premises, shaping and planting trees, and implementing other beautification measures to create a welcoming and visually appealing environment.
- Football Field Revitalization. Clearing and levelling the field to create a safe and playable surface.
- Outside Stabilization through building stone walls to provide structural support and enhance player safety.
- Installing a sturdy mesh fence.

It is worth mentioning and as with the sport facility, local authorities played a crucial role in maximizing the success of the intervention. Their significant financial contribution demonstrates a shared commitment to revitalizing Al Nashama market and boosting local economic activity.

UNDP, in coordination with implementing partners and local authorities, planned an extended support for this market. Under this scheme, the Social Fund for Development (SFD) will continue the already completed pavement by TYF. The total area paved will at least double the completed one.

Community Contributions

Collaboration with the communities and local authorities went beyond the asset and beneficiary selections to working together and participation to produce better asset development. In Abyan, Taiz, and AL Hudaydah, UNDP's implementing partners forged remarkable collaboration with local communities and authorities, mainly on the assets below.

Al Gharbi Road - Al Tawilah	Sport Hall Al Ma'afer	Nashama Market Al Ma'afer	Medical Unit - Al Tawilah	Irrigation Channel - Lawdar
•Community collaboration produced the most significant intervention under phase 1.	•Restoration the war-damaged sport facilities of Al Shurooq	•Concrete pavement for the district main market	•Construction the first medical center for the remote villages in Al Gharbi	•Diversionary channel built to protect people and farms against seasonal floods

Engaging in development with community and local authorities will ensure intervention suitability and demonstrate a sense of ownership for the interventions.

During phase one on the Livelihoods' activities, the cash and in-kind contributions by communities is estimated to be around USD 80,000. Major contributions were in Al Tawilah of Al Mahweet, Lawdar of Abyan, and Al Ma'afer of Taiz. These community contributions led to the development of pivotal

community assets like the pavement of 3000 m2 of roads and establishing a new medical unit in Al-Tawilah. Other important assets restored in collaboration with local authorities and communities are the floods diversionary wall in Lawdar of Abyan and the sport facility in Al-Ma'afer of Taiz.

Output 4.2:

Increased capacities of vulnerable individuals to engage in gender-sensitive and culturally appropriate entrepreneurship opportunities.

Indicator	Target		Progress Against targets			Status
	Overall	Annual	Reporting period	Cumulative	%	
1.4.2.1. Number of trainers certified to use the Start and Improve your Business (SIYB) training packages (disaggregated by trainers/master trainers and by men/women), with the support of the intervention	80	40	26	26	65%	On Track
1.4.2.2. Number of beneficiaries who increase their knowledge in business development and life skills (disaggregated by women/men), with the support of the intervention	4,800	4,000	4,764	4,764	119%	Achieved
1.4.2.3. Number of post-cash for work beneficiaries who increase their knowledge on good agriculture practices (GAP) of selected crop/livestock value chains (disaggregated by women/men), with the support of the intervention	1,000 women by end of 2024	1,000	0	0	0%	Training will be implemented in the next cropping season from April to August 2024
1.4.2.4. Number of microbusinesses that receive training in business resilience, risk protection and decent job creation, and are formally linked to micro-finance institutions (MFIs), with the support of the intervention	3,000	1,500	750	750	50%	On-track
1.4.2.5. Number of people from private sector and government institutions at district and governorate levels who increased their knowledge on participatory business continuity planning (disaggregated by women/men), with the support of the intervention	60	60	210	210	350%	Achieved (This includes other non-ERRY targeted gov.)

Entrepreneurship Skills Development:

Substantial progress in entrepreneurial development had been made during the reporting period by organizing a Training of Trainers in Aden, this marked a pivotal step towards institutionalizing Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) packages.

Twenty-six Yemeni trainers certified in 'My First Business' (MFB) package, a regionally adapted version of Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) foundational training modules. Notably, the introduction of "Improve Your Business (IYB)" module broadened the scope of skills imparted, aiming to equip trainers with the emerging knowledge, tools, and techniques. The training aimed to equip

trainers with up-to-date knowledge, and skills required for delivering the full SIYB programme package to existing and aspiring potential entrepreneurs, as well as small business owners. SIYB training in Yemen, in particular, seeks to promote low-income, illiterate, and semi-literate business owners in establishing and expanding Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) as a strategy for creating decent employment opportunities.

Following the ToT training, the ILO, in collaboration with the Yemen Businesswomen Council and the Federation of Yemen Chambers of Commerce (FYCCI), rolled out the Improve Your Business (IYB) and Business Continuity Training, which enhanced the business management capacity of **210 women-owned enterprises** in six governorates of Yemen, including Aden, Taiz, Hodeida, Sana'a, Mukkala, and Sayaoun. Through this strategic collaboration, the Businesswomen Council and FYCCI adapted and institutionalized the approach, methodologies, and tools, improving access to business development resources and empowering entrepreneurs to further develop their businesses.



A group of businesswomen who participated in the (Start and Improve Your Business)

Furthermore, 50 ILO-trained trainers have facilitated entrepreneurship to over 4,800 beneficiaries. This training, which was organized by UNDP as part of their livelihood component, completion of the training was a prerequisite for beneficiaries since it equipped participants with the skills required to develop a viable business plan, enabling them to apply for small grants.

In partnership with UNDP, the ILO trained entrepreneurship trainers facilitated a comprehensive 12-day training programme. This initiative aimed to equip targeted participants with essential business management skills necessary for developing viable business plans, a prerequisite for accessing UNDP grants. Beyond meeting grant requirements, the program sought to empower small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs with the knowledge, skills, and lessons learned to effectively start and manage their own ventures, thereby generating sustainable income.

This approach was designed seeking to empower participants to confidently initiate and sustain income-generating activities. By equipping them with practical skills, encouraging peer-to-peer knowledge exchange, and providing access to inspiring role models, the programme sought cultivating entrepreneurial and commercial mind set catalyse economic activities and foster small business growth within the community. Through a synergistic partnership between UNDP and the ILO, participants were not just equipped with knowledge and skills; they were empowered to transform them into tangible entrepreneurial ventures. This strategic collaboration between the two agencies not only enhanced individual's capacity but also holds the promise of igniting a wave of economic activity among unemployed people, which also create a ripple effect that will positively impact broader socio-economic development in the long run.

In partnership with UNDP, the ILO trained entrepreneurship trainers facilitated a comprehensive 12-day training programme. UNDP is coordinating the capacity building support directly after cash for work activities. This initiative aimed to equip targeted participants with essential business management skills necessary for developing viable business plans, a prerequisite for accessing UNDP

grants. Beyond meeting grant requirements, the program sought to empower small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs with the knowledge, skills, and lessons learned to effectively start and manage their own ventures, thereby generating sustainable income. The capacity building activity delivery signalled a successful example of PUNOs synergy under ERRY activities.

ILO's certified trainers conducted entrepreneurship training sessions, tailored specifically for women and youth participants. These sessions focused on various aspects of entrepreneurship, including generating business ideas, enhancing financial literacy, mastering sales practices, maintaining proper bookkeeping, and implementing effective marketing strategies.



Through the delivery of practical training sessions, carefully tailored to meet participants' varying levels of understanding, and utilizing simple and relevant case studies, the programme sought to facilitate effective learning experiences. Moreover, by creating a platform where participants could openly share valuable insights among themselves and engage with role models, the training encouraged a collaborative learning environment.

Life and Business Skills Training

In coordination with ILO, MTVET and other existing technical organization, UNDP's Implementing partners implemented life and business skills training for all targeted beneficiaries. The existing training material applied and curtailed to implement practical aspects of learning. UNDP and implementing partners supported targeted beneficiaries to learn and develop skills from the existing successful businesses.

The entrepreneurship training modules "My first business" and "I Own a Small Business" were delivered during the training program according to the trainees' literacy. Both modules provide participants with ways to generate their business ideas, manage their businesses and improve it. Participants learned business and life skills under both modules.



Preparing for the training:

1. Training controls document:

UNDP team developed a training control document to guide IPs and trainer on the delivery of the training in line with the project requirement.

These guidelines ensure all business plans are developed and evaluated in a systematic way ensuring eligibility grant financing.

2. Trainees' category: The trainees were classified according to their literacy levels.

3. Onboarding workshop for trainers: UNDP organized several workshops for trainees and IPs in each location to introduce the intervention modality and provide guidance on different topics

that should be considered during training. In total, 240 trainers have provided a 12-day training on business and life skills to 4,764 trainees.

4. **Business plans evaluation.** As an output of the training phase, beneficiaries developed their own proposals to apply for a grant financing. The trainees as well as IP's team helped participants draft and finalize their business plans.
5. **Semi-automated tool for business plans evaluation.** UNDP developed a semi-automated tool for evaluating business plans generating a final score for each proposal. The tool streamlines the evaluation in three short steps. It is based on a participatory approach conducted by all stakeholders. The evaluation focused on skills, character, and business elements. The evaluation process consists of three steps as follows:
 - a. **Trainer's input.** Provide an opinion on the trainees' development and entrepreneurial characters. The trainers, through their hands-on knowledge, enabled an effective preliminary screening, setting the foundation for subsequent review stages.
 - b. **Advisory evaluation.** IPs should engage external consultants to undertake a beneficiary business plan focusing on technical aspects like plan's financial viability, market demand, operational capacity, and long-term sustainability.
 - c. **IP assessment.** IP's team should review the evaluation and provide their recommendation as a part of the evaluation.

Training statistics

The business and life skills have been successfully completed in all targeted areas for all participants who have graduated from the short employment phase. A total of 4,764 participants (38% women), have completed the training.

By the end of Q4, the Livelihoods implementing partners started the process of evaluating project proposals. In this phase, the door is wide open for competition where the most viable proposals will be selected for grant support. Based on the standardized assessment, 63% of the proposals developed during the capacity building phase will be selected for grant financing support to start the microbusiness establishment.

Grant support and microbusiness establishment

To deliver improved support for targeted beneficiaries under this phase, the livelihood component worked on several preparatory requirements. These requirements aimed at better understanding the local rural market and reflect feedback from different stakeholders on supporting income-generating activities.

➤ Rural Market Assessment

UNDP completed the livelihoods [Market Study](#) needed to help better understand the training needs, microbusiness sectors, potential self-employment and micro-entrepreneurship opportunities for women and youths in targeted rural communities. The study has been shared with IPs to enable them better to understand the unique needs, opportunities, challenges in their districts of implementation. This will also help in better delivery of microbusiness support.

ERRY livelihoods component has produced the last version of the terms of reference for designing and developing MSMEs platform. The platform is a package of financial and non-financial online

support for ERRY startups. It will also allow improved support for other MSMEs during establishment or growth periods.

➤ **Increasing the Grant amount:**

During plans assessment, responsible parties communicated their concerns over the grant amount adequacy for establishing a successful income project. Their feedback is that the USD 750 is insufficient to enable targeted beneficiaries to meet the needs of different businesses establishments especially with inflated prices for local or imported inputs. As all beneficiaries are in rural areas, they also need additional costs to cover other expenses especially the costs of transporting equipment and materials from cities centres to their locations.

To address the important implementation feedback received from IPs and other stakeholders, the project has, in coordination with ERRY Joint Coordination Unit, revised the project document logical framework. With this revision, the total available funds saved from amendment of some activities enabled a 21% increase in the grant value. The increase is reallocated to finance importance and emergent needs, especially increasing grants for establishing 3,000 microbusinesses across all targeted areas.

➤ **Modality of grant distribution**

The Programme Lead at UNDP recommended an amendment for the grant distribution modality due to challenges in partnership with financial institutions following the DFA laws to convert the banking system into Islamic and restrictions over some financial services. Thus, the grant would be distributed by current livelihoods NGOs partners.

Accordingly, UNPD developed and finalized the Terms of Reference (ToRs) of grant management and distribution. The modified ToRs have been communicated with the Livelihoods four partners who are currently developing the implementation proposals.

➤ **Number of trainees increased.**

The number of livelihoods beneficiaries under the capacity building activity was amended to 4,800 instead of 4,000. The implementing partner, FAF, reported that they encountered difficulties when they introduced livelihoods graduation model to different stakeholders. Community leaders and local authorities believe that including all CFW beneficiaries in the training phase is important to maintain social cohesion in the targeted districts. They also think that supporting all beneficiaries with the short employment and training activities will motivate targeted women and young people to change their lives and empower them to reach improved livelihood opportunities.

➤ **Grant Financing:**

The grant phase was successfully launched in Lahj and Hajjah. In the districts of Tuban, Al Maqatirah, and Najrah, a total of 750 beneficiaries have been financed to develop their own microbusiness. Each beneficiary was granted **USD 908** in cash as seed capital to start developing their proposed businesses ideas. In these districts, 48% of the microbusinesses were established by women beneficiaries.

The established Businesses are distributed over several sectors including food, retails, agriculture, lives stocks, honey, processing, etc. The microbusinesses established in different income activities including grocery, maintenance of machinery and equipment, vegetables selling, incenses production, photography, stationery, and others.

Women businesses

Women-owned businesses represent 48% of the total developed businesses in 2023. In Tuban, 20% women created different food related businesses like pastry and sweets. Women projects established in sectors like sewing, livestock. Similarly, women in Al Maqatirah with most women in sectors like sewing, livestock, grocery, cosmetics. In Najrah, women applied for honey and beekeeping activities, then sewing and cosmetics.

Human Interest Stories

Shakeeba's Henna Lab

A women-owned business that dries, powders, and packages Henna leaves into marketable products. Shakeeba used to have some Henna activities but struggled to upgrade her activity from ultimate manual processes to use machine and other production equipment. She stopped doing her business as production volume small to cover the work costs.

Under ERRY's livelihood component, Shakeeba received training on how to manage her business and accounts for costs and expenses. Her proposal was selected as a viable business and the project supported her USD 908 to introduce a machine to automate Henna powdering. Shakeeba restarted her small lab through introducing some locally produced machine that automate powdering of Henna.



The new equipment allowed for a more efficient production process, contributing to a stronger business and improved economic well-being for her family. Her story is a testament to how integrated support — combining immediate financial assistance, skill development, and capital investment — can lead to sustainable livelihoods and transform the economic landscape for individuals, families, and the wider community in Tuban.

Partnership for bigger business

In Al Maqatirah, the training programme made Ezadden, Safwan, and Mohammed change their mind about the way they can do business. The three submitted one business proposal to establish a mini market project in Tor Al baha Market. The three partners are still developing their business. Interestingly, the partners borrowed additional amount to complete business establishment.



Locally Produced Fertilizers

In Dar Al-Haitham of Tuban, as in other rural areas in Yemen, access to agriculture inputs is not easy. The conflict made purchasing fertilizers challenging. Additionally, the devaluation of local currency exacerbated the situation.

Mustafa, a young man attended the business training and submitted a proposal to establish a business for agriculture fertilizers. His proposal was attractive for the evaluation team in Tuban, and he was granted a seed capital of USD 908 to start his project.

Mustafa's uses local food and vegetable waste to produce naturally friendly fertilizers. He also develops a nutrient-rich fertilizer by adding some natural waste like grass clippings and leaves to produce compost.

In addition to that, his business trades artificial fertilizers to meet demand size in his remote village.



Hamed's Business

Hamed launched his general services project in Al Akahela, Al Maqatirah district. To enhance his business and life skills, he participated in a training program, adding to his existing skills in plumbing, welding, and other construction se. The intervention facilitated a grant that helped him develop his working equipment. He used the grant to purchase a generator and other essential toolkits.



Hamed operates his movable business based on client orders. He offers services such as plumbing, electrical work, and welding, traveling to various work sites to complete projects.

Advanced agriculture techniques in Al Maqatirah.

Samar, a rural women form Al Amqatirah requested grant financing to establish the first greenhouse in Al Akahelah of Al Maqatirah. The greenhouses can be incredibly valuable tool for small-scale farmers like Samar. It offers a range of benefits that can improve their yield, income, and resilience.



UNDP supported Samar with training, grant, and advisory support to develop her project.

Output 4.3:

Increased capacities of vulnerable individuals to engage in gender-sensitive and culturally appropriate technical and vocational skills development opportunities.

Indicator	Target		Progress Against targets			Status
	Overall	Annual	Reporting period	Cumulative	%	
1.4.3.1. Number of beneficiaries of CfW and FFA certified in market-relevant technical skills, with the support of the intervention	1,400	800	795	795	99%	Achieved
1.4.3.2. Number of beneficiaries linked with job placement opportunities in collaboration with private sector (disaggregated by women/men), with the support of the intervention	960	400	398	398	99.5%	Achieved

Under the ERRY III program, the ILO is overseeing a skills development via apprenticeship schemes or workplace-based learning. This component aims to empower 1,200 vulnerable youths and women by providing market-responsive, demand-driven training. The overall objective is to enhance their employability, facilitate access to decent job opportunities, and enhance resilience. In addition, it seeks to strengthen the capacity of 600 master craftspeople, enabling them to provide competency-based job training in sectors aligned with market demand, thereby improving productivity, working conditions, and training delivery.

During the reporting period, the ILO achieved significant progress in implementing the skills development components through apprenticeship schemes, marking a notable achievement. In collaboration with its implementation partners, the Social Fund for Development in the South and GHADAQ for Development in the North, the ILO successfully trained 795 youths, with 48% of them being women, in market-relevant and demand-driven occupations.

Occupations in growing economic sectors were identified through a rapid labour market assessment conducted in three governorates in the south, namely Lahj, Abyan, and Taiz. In the north, specifically in Hajja and Almahweet governorates, relevant and in-demand sectors were identified through a participatory workshop involving key stakeholders such as businesses, Chambers of Commerce representatives, TVET instructors, Master Craftsperson's (MCPs), youth, and women representatives, among others. However, it's important to note that the labour market assessment in the north was prevented by SCMCHA, prompting the alternative approach of a participatory workshop for sector identification.

Building upon the assessment findings, two new curricula have been developed, focusing on food processing (cheese and milk products and pickales / chilly products) and veterinary and livestock care. Additionally, three existing curricula (beauty therapy, motorcycle repair, and incense and perfume manufacturing) have been updated to better align with current needs. ILO also organized a curriculum validation workshop in which 21 participants from the project's target districts representing the private sector, TVET institutions, ILO, and SFD reviewed the draft curricula, which finally got approval by the MTEVT. Furthermore, a contract has been signed with MTEVT in Sana'a to update two additional curricula, further enhancing the relevance and effectiveness of skills development initiatives.

In line with the identified occupations, 273 MCPs (44% women) who demonstrated willingness and relatively higher capacity were selected to participate in the apprenticeship program. Before the program commenced, a Training of Trainers was conducted to enhance the capacity of MCPs in competency-based training and assessment, pedagogical skills, occupational safety and health, and adherence to a code of practice.

The project organized various market linkages and promotional events, including exhibitions, to provide apprentices with opportunities to showcase their products and services and connect with potential customers within the target areas. Furthermore, to facilitate a smooth transition from learning to earning, the ILO and its implementation partners procured high-quality toolkits, meeting standard specifications, for all occupations and provided them to apprenticeship graduates. While this enables graduates to immediately start work, additional financial and non-financial support may be required to further assist them in starting and expanding their own businesses.

With this objective in mind, the project organized a series of workshops aimed at facilitating post-training support for apprenticeship graduates. These workshops aimed to facilitate apprentices access to finance and wage employment opportunities by connecting them with Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) and Employer Organizations (EOs).

The following sections offer a detailed account of the progress made, accomplishments, and key achievements thus far.

- SFD successfully completed the craftsperson training in the five districts, with 143 participants (65 of whom were women, accounting for 45.4%). Details on the number of craftspersons per occupation in the southern governorates is provided in annex 2 table 9. The training lasted for 8 days/40 hours and focused on competency-based training and assessment (CBT&A) methodology, pedagogical skills for on-the-job training, occupational safety and health, and the code of practice. Additionally, 23 TVET supervisors attended the craftsperson training to facilitate on-the-job training.



- ILO, in partnership with SFD, has also provided class-based training to 402 apprentices in all five districts. The training consisted of 120 hours spread over 15 days and covered various subjects such as life skills, financial literacy, occupational safety and health, as well as technical/specialized training in their respective occupations.

The training was conducted at TVET centres located in Tuban and Alma'afer districts. However, in the other three districts (Radfan, Ahwer, and Lawder) where TVET centres were not available, private centres or schools were utilized as training venues to ensure accessibility for the apprentices.



A graduated apprentice initiates her mobile maintenance business in Al Ma'afer district, Taiz.

This comprehensive training approach aims to equip the apprentices with a well-rounded set of skills, combining both technical expertise and essential life skills, to enhance their capabilities and prepare them for successful careers in their chosen occupations.

To monitor apprentices' progress and track skill acquisition, SFD engaged TVET supervisors in the target governorates. These supervisors used scorecards and competency-based logbooks to monitor apprentices during on-the-job training tasks.

Moreover, on-the-job training at workplaces was completed for 402 apprentices in nine occupations: solar panels installation, repair and maintenance; cloth design and dressmaking; air conditioning maintenance; food processing, specifically pickle and tomato sauce; beauty therapy and hairdressing; bee keeping & honey producing; pastries and sweets making; and mobile maintenance as detailed in annex 2 table 10.

To assist apprenticeship graduates in transitioning to the world of work, the ILO, in collaboration with its implementation partners, has provided high-quality toolkits that meet the standards and specifications of each occupation across all targeted governorates, enabling graduates to enter the labour market smoothly.



To expedite entry into the local labour market and enhance success in the world of work, a customized career guidance sessions have been conducted. Furthermore, workshops organized to connect with potential employer organizations as well as connect graduates with Microfinance Institutions (MFIs), facilitating access to finance and promoting the use of financial services to start and grow their businesses. These efforts sought to offer graduates with additional resources and guidance so that they could effectively navigate the challenging job market in Yemen and thrive in their entrepreneurial pursuits.

In response to SCMCHA's instructions not to conduct a labour market assessment in the North, ILO, and its implementation partner GHADAQ have adapted their approach in both Hajjah and Al-Mahweet governorates. Potential sectors and market demanded occupations were identified Through inclusive and participatory workshops involving key institutions and social groups. The identification of 109 craftspeople in selected occupations has been completed with 87 attending and successfully completing craftsperson training, as detailed in annex 2 table 11.



Despite facing numerous operational challenges, including an abrupt halt in implementation that slowed progress in the North, the first round of apprenticeship achieved remarkable success. Out of the 400 apprentices targeted, 393 successfully graduated, with only seven dropping out or failing to pass the competency-based assessment as detailed in annex 2 table 12. Over 98 percent of the targeted apprentices completed both the classroom-based off-the-job training and the practical work-based learning (on-the-job training) in both Hajjah & Al-Mahweet governorates. Furthermore, the Master Craftspeople (MCPs) training conducted in these governorates, with women's participation reaching a notable 50%.

An After-Action Review (AAR) workshop was organized in Aden, bringing together 21 participants from key and relevant institutions to reflect on the performance of the first-round apprenticeship programme. During the workshop, strengths and shortcomings identified, lessons learned discussed, and key recommendations proposed to capitalize on successes and address weaknesses. The participatory and interactive sessions provided an excellent opportunity for stakeholders to critically

assess the performance of the apprenticeship programme, identify areas for improvement, and strategize on how to further enhance its impact in the future.



The second round of the apprenticeship programme, integrating the lessons learned and insights gained from the first round, will focus on ensuring that more women engage in emerging, high-growth economic sectors satisfying women apprentices interest and preferences while also meeting the demands of the labour market.

Building on these insights, the ILO has completed the necessary preparations to launch the second round of apprenticeship and skills development. This phase, which is expected to begin in mid-April 2024, will benefit 750 individuals.

Human Interest Story for a graduated apprentice

Farooq's Story: Harnessing Solar Energy for Sustainable Development

Under the auspices of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Social Fund for Development (SFD), part of the broader ERRY III Joint Programme, Farooq Ahmed received in-job apprenticeship training in solar energy in Tuban District, Lahj Governorate. This training transformed Farooq's career, enabling him to specialize in a field that is not only his profession but also his passion.



Through his apprenticeship, Farooq developed the skills to troubleshoot and repair solar panels—a valuable service in his community, where sustainable energy solutions are in high demand. His mentor, Ahmed Ali, commends Farooq's quick learning and developmental pace, noting the mutual benefits of their collaboration .

Farooq's newly acquired expertise led to practical applications, such as directly connecting a fan to a solar energy source in a local school and addressing solar system issues in village homes. His work ensures that schools have the necessary power to operate efficiently and that families benefit from cost-effective and reliable solar energy.

The impact of Farooq's training extends beyond professional growth; it reflects in the well-being of his family as well. With his skills in a growing sector, Farooq can provide for his family, evidenced by his ability to purchase groceries after a hard day's work. The success seen in Farooq's story is a direct result of the concerted efforts of ILO and SFD within the ERRY III Joint Programme to offer practical, in-demand skills training that leads to immediate and tangible benefits.

4. Synergies and Complementarity

The ERRY III Joint Programme 's partnerships leverage the unique strengths of four UN agencies as well as local partners, seeking to maximize synergies and complementarity of interventions, capitalizing on existing capacities at the local level by employing an Area Based Programming approach, ERRY offers integrated and multi sectoral development solutions aimed at promoting the socioeconomic recovery and resilience of crisis affected communities across seven governorates. ERRY's strategy is centered around supporting resilient livelihoods and facilitating the creation of decent employment opportunities, which are critical for revitalizing the local economy.

In the new phase of ERRY, the programme has made significant efforts to enhance synergy and complementarity among the Participating United Nations Organizations (PUNOs). This has been achieved through effective coordination, collaboration, and joint geographical targeting at the subdistrict level. The ERRY III Joint Programme identified geographical targets using area-based approaches with situations analyzed jointly by all four UN agencies, and interventions are being implemented in the same geographic areas. This integrated approach aims to address diverse household needs and complex community problems comprehensively.

As part of this strategy, one district from each of the target governorates has been selected as a model district. All participating UN organizations have concentrated their efforts on this district, ensuring a coordinated and focused approach to deliver an integrated package of assistance that would maximize impact and effectiveness.

Led by UNDP, the Joint Programme initiated early consultations and community needs assessments to develop Community Resilience Plans (CRPs), ensuring that interventions by all participating UN agencies and implementing partners closely align with the community's resilience goals. The identification of community needs is conducted in a participatory manner, involving all stakeholders and the joint programme partners. The CRPs serve as a foundation for all interventions, representing a significant shift towards a more unified and community-centred approach compared to the previous phases of the programme.

FAO and ILO collaborated to enhance value chains and promote agricultural productivity while creating employment opportunities. Through their respective interventions, these organizations worked together to improve various aspects of value chains in the agricultural sector. This joint effort aimed at boosting productivity, strengthening market linkages, and increasing the overall efficiency of agricultural value chains. Additionally, ILO and FAO collaborated to enhance the business capabilities of producer and marketing groups by creating employment opportunities within the sector, which contributed to sustainable economic growth and improved livelihoods for individuals involved in agricultural and livestock activities.

Coordination and complementarity were prioritized in the Post Cash for Work activities, involving the collaboration of ILO, UNDP, and WFP. As a result, WFP nominated about 863 FFA beneficiaries to be engaged in the ILO activities, mainly those interested in vocational trainings on maintenance of refrigeration and air conditioning equipment, installation and operation of home solar power systems, maintenance of home appliances, etc. The selected eligible beneficiaries received training sessions in the technical and management aspects in the TVET institution followed by on-the-job training in some selected occupations/workplaces. These beneficiaries, after completing their theoretical and practical trainings, they were assessed and certified and provided with toolkits to support the utilization of their skills.

With UNDP, WFP shared approximately the same number of beneficiaries that was shared with ILO. So that UNDP screened and monitored the beneficiaries to select those interesting in establishing their own businesses. Then UNDP provided them with a start-up grants. Also, WFP considered the Community Resilience Plans (CRPs) that were collected and prepared by UNDP as an entry point to identify the most priority communal assets for the target communities.

Also, UNDP coordinated with WFP to continue the rehabilitation of Alamal School in Deer Almadani Subdistrict, Bajil. The school had already been constructed by WFP and UNDP provided the school with the required furniture. The school now accommodates 150 students from five villages, providing them with an improved educational facility.

Moreover, UNDP takes the lead in the renewable energy intervention aimed at improving access to clean energy for basic services and public facilities. As part of this initiative, UNDP supports the installation of solar energy systems in schools and public facilities, where priority is given to community service facilities and productive assets that are constructed or rehabilitated by PUNOs. This approach ensures that the supported projects are maximally functional and impactful, benefiting the communities they serve.

UNDP is collaborating with the ILO team to extend the grant financing opportunities to ILO's apprenticeship graduates. Through this coordination, the participants will be given a chance to compete for grants financing to establish their own income-generating activities. UNDP and ILO have been working together to assist implementing partners in facilitating this synergy. As a result, ILO recommended participants from different locations, and UNDP, through its implementing partner TYF, enrolled 14 participants in Al Ma'afer and Lawdar.

The case of Al-Amara Road Rehabilitation in Al-Sha'athma Sub-district is an example that represents an integration of support efforts, where the Sustainable Development Foundation (SDF) rehabilitated an essential road in Al-Sha'athma sub-district, through the Livelihoods component, to facilitate transportation to the health unit being rehabilitated by Social Fund for Development (SFD) as part of the Local Governance component. Also, the health unit has been provided with a solar system as part of the renewable energy component. This collaboration between road rehabilitation and health sector initiatives aimed to enhance access to healthcare services in the area.

By fostering collaboration and synergy among UN agencies, the programme aimed to maximize the impact of interventions and ensure comprehensive support for targeted communities. Through this integrated approach, the programme sought to create sustainable change, strengthen local economies, and empower individuals and communities in Yemen.

5. Lesson Learned:

Enhanced Synergies: Throughout the implementation of the programme, a valuable lesson learned was the importance of increasing synergies among the participating UN agencies. By ensuring effective coordination and collaboration, the programme ensured maximizing the benefits for targeted communities and deliver an integrated package of assistance that would foster resilience, empowerment, and self-reliance among individuals in Yemen.

Area-based, integrated multisectoral interventions: Adopting an area-based approach, interventions can be tailored to the specific needs and characteristics of a particular geographic area, which allows for a more targeted and context-specific response in order to effectively address the complex challenges faced by target communities. This approach will maximize the impact and relevance of the interventions.

More engagement and capacity building of relevant stakeholders: Another lesson learned is the importance of increased engagement and involvement of government counterparts, line ministries, and local authorities in development interventions. Their active participation is vital for the success, sustainability, and scalability of programmes. In addition, capacity building initiatives for line ministries and implementing partners play a vital role in strengthening their capacities, improving their performance, and ultimately contributing to the successful implementation of development interventions. Furthermore, building the capacity of relevant stakeholders helps foster local ownership and empowers them to take a leading role in driving development initiatives. It strengthens their ability to coordinate, monitor, and evaluate programmes, leading to more efficient and impactful implementation.

Delay in delivery of solar systems. The unexpected delay in the delivery of solar systems, particularly the batteries and wind turbine, highlighted the importance of anticipating potential delays in procurement processes. Working closely with the procurement unit and utilizing Long-Term Agreements (LTA) can help facilitate the process and mitigate delays in the future.

Scope of Community Assets Rehabilitation activity: While community asset rehabilitation is important for restoring service and operation of vital rural assets, the budget and time allocated for community asset rehabilitation drew comments from authorities, indicating the need for careful consideration of resource allocation. Although the team has encouraged implementing partners to maximize the impact of the assets being rehabilitated, the limited resources hindered the creation of a significant impact.

Short Employment Support: As the short employment support program has been concluded, it has been learned that sustainability and effectiveness can be improved by upscaling resources for community asset support. Therefore, it is recommended to reconsider the approach and explore options for enhancing the sustainability and effectiveness of community asset support initiatives within the current Cash for Work modality.

Developmental and sustainable interventions: The implementation of more developmental and sustainable interventions is essential for achieving long-term impact and addressing the root causes of development challenges. By prioritizing developmental and sustainable interventions, we can move beyond short-term solutions and focus on creating lasting positive change. These interventions can address the root causes of social, economic, and environmental issues, promoting inclusive and equitable development.

Longer Contracting period of IPs: Extending the contracting and implementation period for IPs as recommended by donors, which can offer numerous advantages, including improved planning, flexibility, collaboration, capacity building, and ultimately, better outcomes in the delivery of development interventions.

Longer inception phase for proper need identification, planning, and IPs contracting: Extending the inception phase period enables a more comprehensive understanding of the challenges and priorities of the target communities. It also provides sufficient time for engaging and contracting suitable partners as well as for extracting the required implementation clearances.

Market Assets for Rehabilitation: While markets are important for economic enhancement and income generation projects, it was discovered that not all rural areas have existing markets to support. Additionally, establishing new markets requires substantial resources. Therefore, it is important to broaden the scope of asset rehabilitation beyond markets and explore alternative approaches that align with local needs and available resources.

Provision of start-up seed money and livelihood grants: Though ILO's apprenticeship has showed the potential to improve the employability of youth, it is critical to recognize the significant barriers and constraints on wage employment. The conflict, the economic collapse, and the structural challenges of the labour market have seriously undermined both the public and private sectors' ability to generate wage employment. Hence, future programs, including the second-round implementation, should prioritize support for graduates in pursuing self-employment paths launching their own businesses to ensure a smooth transition from learning to earning by providing start-up seed money and livelihood grants, as well as facilitating access to finance.

6. Gender Equality and Women Economic Empowerment

ERRY III focuses on supporting resilience in livelihoods, food security, and climate change adaptation. These focus areas aim to provide the necessary support to vulnerable communities affected by various challenges. The program recognizes the importance of building resilience and fostering cohesion within these communities.

To address the underlying causes of vulnerability, the current phase of the program seeks to scale up women's participation and empowerment. A closer lens is applied to gender equality and women's empowerment within the different interconnected components of the program. This approach aims to bridge the gap towards achieving gender equality and promote women's active involvement in decision-making processes and community development. By integrating gender considerations into the programme's various components, it seeks to create opportunities for women to actively participate in and benefit from all the programme's interventions.

ERRY III JP conducted a gender analysis for the programme to assess challenges in women's participation and empowerment. This analysis led to the development of a Gender Action Plan, enhancing gender equality and women's empowerment within the programme's interventions.

ERRY III JP has adapted the Gender Action Plan and relevant recommendations that came out of the gender analysis, three main outcomes were effectively integrated to gender mainstreaming the programme at different levels, interventions, capacities and operations.

At the programme level, the programme has also set gender-specific targets for all relevant indicators to ensure effective monitoring of gender mainstreaming and women empowerment within the programme various components.

The report highlights the achievements, challenges, and lessons learned from integrating gender equality and women's empowerment in the interventions and activities of the ERRY III JP during the period of 2023. It also focuses on three specific areas within the ERRY III JP interventions: gender mainstreaming within thematic interventions, capacities on gender utilized and practiced during program interventions. It also shows significant progress in promoting women's participation, representation, and leadership, and enhancing their income-generating opportunities.

Gender Mainstreaming within ERRY III JP Interventions:

Under the Local Governance (LG) component, 50 subdistrict development committees (SDCs) were formed, consisting of 717 elected members, with 330 of them being women. These elected members represented their communities at the subdistrict level and played a crucial role in developing 50 gender-sensitive community resilience plans (CRPs). These plans led to the implementation of 89 gender-responsive community initiatives that supported the development of basic service

infrastructure such as roads, schools, water networks, and healthcare units. In the Social Cohesion (SC) component, 75 consultants, including 17 women, received training of trainers (TOT) in social cohesion and community mediation. Additionally, 309 community mediators, with 32 of them being women, and 690 SDC representatives, including 323 females, were trained in conflict resolution and mediation. Furthermore, 698 participants, with 185 women, engaged in 90 community dialogues, with 18 separate sessions specifically held for women. These efforts resulted in 39 gender-sensitive conflict scans.

The Livelihoods (LV) component supported 4,800 beneficiaries, with 1,828 of them being women, through cash-for-work (CfW) activities, the provision of entrepreneurship programs, and the distribution of grants to 355 women, enabling them to engage in income-generating activities. The Food for Assets (FFA) component facilitated women's access to essential services by rehabilitating or constructing 41 community assets such as roads, water infrastructure, education facilities, and healthcare centers. Moreover, the program enhanced the economic involvement of 135 women in Milhan and Al-Ma'afer by providing them with skills training under the Food for Training (FFT) initiative.

Under the Skills and Entrepreneurship Development (SED) component, the program trained 273 master craftspersons and TVET supervisors, with 44% of them being women, in competency-based training and assessment. These individuals also mentored apprentices in on-the-job learning sessions. Additionally, 802 apprentices, including 48% women, successfully completed training, and received certification in market-demanded occupations. They were provided with toolkits to support their cooperation. The program also trained 26 trainers, including 9 women, in the Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) training package. Furthermore, 200 businesswomen owners received training to improve their businesses.

In the agriculture value chain, the program focused on building the capacities of farmers in climate-smart agriculture (CSA). This involved providing training for 36 extensionists, including 10 female participants, equipping them with the necessary knowledge and skills in climate-smart agriculture practices. Capacity-building trainings in water management practices were also conducted for water users' association members, including females who would later engage in awareness campaign sessions in the targeted areas. The program also trained 15 females to become qualified community animal health workers (CAHWs), contributing to healthier livestock and sustainable livelihoods. Meetings were held with female and male landowners, with 23 female landowners and 65 male landowners participating. Specific meetings were organized for 15 farmer women landowners to discuss tomato production, and 28 rural women participated in meetings on livestock animal feed. Additionally, 657 female farmers from women-headed families received cereal seeds to enhance the crop value chain. Furthermore, 1,690 female-headed households involved in the dairy value chain were provided with dairy equipment to improve milk product quality and hygiene.

A summary of the progress made during this reporting period for the Women Economic Empowerment specific indicators is provided in annex 3.

Capacity Building towards Gender Mainstreaming:

Partners received training to effectively monitor and evaluate the program's impact on women. They focused on enhancing women's participation, addressing their needs, improving their skills, supporting women entrepreneurs, and providing financial resources. The partners were educated on assessing the impact at various levels and promoting the appointment of female staff. The

program successfully collaborated with three women-led organizations, empowering women and improving organizational capacity.

Gender Monitoring Mechanism:

Gender Working Group has been formed that has a participant from each PUNO. The Gender specialist along with the gender working group held the regular technical meetings during the reporting period. These meetings provided a forum to review the Gender Action Plan's progress, tackle implementation challenges, and formulate decisions and recommendations for enhancement. The collaborative environment fostered coordination, ensuring the successful execution of gender mainstreaming within ERRY III JP activities. As part of the monitoring gender mainstreaming within the programme interventions. Different tools were developed jointly with the M&E officer as those tools will help tracking data for M&E purpose at the same will assist to have gender disaggregated data for gender equality and women empowerment analysis.

Gender Sensitive Visibility Strategy:

JCU has adapted a gender sensitive communication strategy towards gender equality and women empowerment as media plays a pivotal role in empowering women, fostering awareness, and driving positive change. Different media campaigns have taken place in celebrating and advocating for women such as international women day and rural women day as media campaigns challenge traditional norms and stereotypes and influences public perceptions by presenting female beneficiaries as inspirational role models and engine of change for other women you undergo such circumstances. Creative and diversified social media products highlighting the contributions of ERRY III JP to rural women's social and economic empowerment such as videos, and blogs were produced to raise awareness of individuals about women beneficiaries and how they encountered gender stereotyping as persons, household individuals and community members. The key message that media products communicate is how ERRYIII contributed in changed women roles from the reproductive roles to the productive roles.

Some of the lessons learned led to actionable recommendations for gender mainstreaming within ERRY III Joint Programme were: 1) Having a gender action plan aligned with programme's activities. 2) Gender disaggregated data collection mechanism with regular gender monitoring to track progress for analysis and reporting purposes. 3) Building capacities of implementing partners enhanced their skills to integrate gender within their activities and to be able to track gender disaggregated data and impact. 4) Recognition and adaptation of holistic empowerment approach for women, beyond economic empowerment only, including social and decision-making empowerment.

Further recommendations for the gender mainstreaming the rest of the programme's activities are actively involving women, marginalized groups, and youth. Providing disaggregated data with other categories such as women marginalized and disabled (if any) for assessing and reporting the impact of interventions on them. Also, enhancing staff and partner capacities through gender-focused training, and regularly reviewing and adjusting gender mainstreaming approaches based on feedback and changing contexts.

The programme has made significant efforts to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in Yemen, as evidenced by the achievements and outcomes highlighted. The continuous commitment and support from all stakeholders have been instrumental in achieving these goals.

7. Cross Cutting Issues

7.1 Climate Adaptation and Environmental Protection

The planned programme activities prioritize not only addressing environmental issues but also enhancing the capacity of supported beneficiaries and households to effectively deal with environmental-related concerns. Here are some of the activities that contribute to the climate adaptation, mitigation, and environmental sustainability:

- **Distribution of Local Seeds:** The programme has distributed local seeds that are well-suited to the local environment and has encouraged its multiplication through the establishment of seed banks. The programme promotes the use of these seeds, which contributes to environmental compatibility and resilience.
- **Water User Associations and Sustainable Water Management:** To improve water use behaviors, the programme is supporting the water user associations. Through these associations, farmers are empowered to adopt locally driven sustainable solutions for water management. This effort enhances the sustainable use of natural resources and contributes to environmental protection.
- **Farmer Field Schools:** The programme establishes farmer field schools, providing a platform for farmers to enhance their production techniques while concurrently safeguarding the environment. Through training and capacity-building, farmers learn sustainable agricultural practices that promote environmental sustainability.
- **Improving Animal Feeding and Production Practices:** The programme focuses on improving animal feeding and production practices. The programme is promoting efficient feed utilization, waste management, and sustainable animal husbandry techniques, which helps reduce the environmental impacts associated with livestock farming.
- **Improving Irrigation and Crop Farming Practices:** The programme is implementing sustainable irrigation methods and promoting climate-smart agricultural practices.
- **Use of Sustainable Energy Sources:** The programme also ensures that renewable energy sources are used within the supported value chains.
- Furthermore, the programme focuses on strengthening partners' capacities in managing social and environmental risks, ensuring that social and environmental safeguards are effectively integrated throughout the implementation of the programme activities.
- The International Labour Organization (ILO) considers Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) training as an essential component of its implementation approach. The training provided to business owners, craftspersons, and apprentices equips them with a good understanding of the key OHS aspects. This knowledge helps improve working environments, supports business productivity, and ensures a safe working environment for apprentices. Additionally, the training assists craftspersons in reviewing and enhancing OHS aspects in their workplaces, thereby improving the productivity and well-being of business owners and master craftspeople based on the WISE+ approach.

7.2 Sustainability

The programme implemented activities aim to achieve long-term sustainability and positive impact on the targeted beneficiaries and their communities, which is evident in several aspects.

- Targeting Actual Need: The programme specifically targets farmers living in remote areas who are in actual need of assistance. By focusing on those who rely on livestock farming for income, particularly women, the programme addresses the specific needs of the most vulnerable and provides targeted support.
- Training and Capacity Building: Beneficiaries receive training in dairy product manufacturing and animal feeding good practices. This equips them with the knowledge and skills to effectively manage their local resources and utilize them efficiently. By empowering farmers with these practices, the project enhances their ability to sustainably utilize resources and improve their livelihoods.
- Increased Resilience and Income: Through the provision of necessary training and inputs, the project significantly increases the resilience of beneficiaries. This is achieved by enabling them to sell more products and increase animal production, such as meat and milk. As a result, their income levels rise, making them more economically resilient and less vulnerable to external shocks.
- Learning New Sustainable Practices: The programme supports farmers to new practices that optimize the use of local resources. Farmers learn to leverage their resources effectively, minimizing waste and maximizing productivity, which contributes to the sustainability of the project.
- Capacity Building of Local Government Staff: The programme is building the capacities of local government staff to ensure that the positive influence on targeted beneficiaries is sustained in the long run.
- Engaging Community Members and Institutions: The programme has actively involved community members and institutions in the preparation and implementation of Community Resilience Plans (CRPs). Through this process, the programme supports and enhances the capacity of the community to identify their needs, prioritize them, and plan and implement resilience plans and projects. This engagement fosters a sense of ownership among community members, promoting the sustainability of the initiatives.
- Community Contribution and Management: Community members actively contribute their local resources and labor to implement all community projects. The management and maintenance of these projects are handled by community committees. This participatory approach strengthens community ownership, leading to enhanced sustainability of the supported initiatives.

8. Key Challenges

Being implemented in a complex operating environment, the programme has faced various challenges as highlighted below:

- **Restrictions on Movement:**

The security situation, particularly in Abyan, restricts the movement of staff from PUNOs and implementing partners to the targeted districts. Similarly, the programme team cannot travel to

Abyan and other districts in the southern areas due to updated security measures that included Taiz and parts of Lahj.

Obtaining travel clearances, especially in the north, is a lengthy process and requires a lot of applications, which restricts the team from frequently visiting the implementation sites in the north.

Mahram Requirement: Women staff from the north face mobility restrictions and cannot travel to the field without a family relative accompanying them. Women staff sometime forced to use their own car with the relative to go to the field for a mission, causing staff additional cost to pay for family members that join them. Also, family members must leave other work to join them. It has implication in affecting quality of our programme implementation and timely delivery.

Travel Restriction on National Staff: National staff are restricted to travel to the south through UNHAS, and this affects their ability to provide support to implementing partners and effectively monitor project activities.

These movement restrictions not only affect the ability of staff to monitor and support implementation but also impacts the quality and timely delivery of the programme.

- **Security Concerns:**

Staff of some of the implementing partners encountered threats and attacks in the Madarebah and Ras Alara district due to disputes between local communities. These security incidents posed a risk and delay to the implementation of the programme activities and required some time address and solve the issue.

- **Administrative and Implementation Challenges:**

Continuous follow up and requests for frequent meetings with local authorities and key personnel from SCMCHA and other governmental entities. While engagement with stakeholders is important, these frequent meetings can be time-consuming and divert efforts from implementation operational activities.

Implementing partners (IPs) in the north need to address several implementation requirements set by SCMCHA at different levels, adding complexity and further bottlenecks. This has been a major reason for the implementation delays in the northern governorates.

Local authorities in northern governorates conducted field visits to assess WFP-ERRY III's cycle 1 activities, resulting in a delay of granting implementation permits for the selected partners (BFD and RI) who are going to implement the remaining cycles of WFP interventions. However, after the completion of the field visits to Hudaydah, Mahweet, Hajjah, and Sada'a, WFP received approval from SCMCHA to proceed with the selected implementing partners. Currently, WFP is in the final stage of the partnership process with the selected IPs.

The procurement and importation of materials for solar systems is a time-consuming process, which has impacted the timely implementation of renewable energy activities.

Further restrictions on data collection have been imposed by DFA, hindering the collection of beneficiaries' data and conducting post monitoring activities.

Budget adjustment to include the cost of an engineering and technical supervisor for civil work projects. This decision was made because the initial budget allocation for consultancy expenses was insufficient to cover the total of 175 initiatives and small-scale projects related to social cohesion and local governance. UNDP was informed of this need and approved the reallocation.

Sweden Logo and Flag Concerns: There were some objections from local authorities in Hajjah, Al-Hudaydah, and Al-Mahweet governorates regarding the use of the Swedish flag in visibility materials, due to ongoing international social issues. To address this, the programme team cooperated with the authorities and replaced the flag with the name Sweden in the materials.

9. Visibility, Communications, and M&E

9.1 Visibility and Communications:

In the reporting period of this report, the following visibility and communications activities were undertaken:

- **Held Collaborative Meetings for Communications Strategy:** Held multiple meetings with the Communications Working Group (CWG) to discuss the implementation of the Developed Communications Annual Plan for 2023. This plan was subsequently shared with the participating UN agencies within the joint programme for their valuable inputs.
- **A photography and videography:** Executing a photography and videography mission that encompasses all districts and governorates specified in the joint programme. This mission involves capturing photos, b-roll footage, testimonials, soundbites, and other relevant documentation.
- **Success Stories:** Creating, disseminating, and publishing diverse success stories that showcase the programme's impact across all components, emphasizing its contribution to strengthening resilience, improving food security, and enhancing the livelihoods of the most vulnerable populations in Yemen.
- **Strategic Communication Plan Development:** Devised a comprehensive communication plan aligned with the EU's new communication strategy approach, which is centered around a campaign-driven methodology.
- **Press Releases for Enhanced Outreach:** Crafted a press release detailing the EU's visit to the ERRY Joint Programme, with a focus on engaging targeted communities in the northern region.
- **Promoting Steering Committee Engagement:** Generated and published a press release highlighting key discussions and outcomes from the Steering Committee meeting, effectively communicating these updates to pertinent stakeholders.
- **Empowering implementing partners through Communication Training:** Successfully organized two communication training sessions in Aden and Hodeidah, catering to the participating UN agencies and their potential implementing partners. These training sessions encompassed essential topics such as communication plans, EU guidelines, branding, effective storytelling, photography, and videography.
- **Highlighting Women's Leadership in Resilience Building:** Produced and released a video that showcased the pivotal role of women in establishing community resilience plans and prioritizing community needs.
- **Capturing Resilience Building in Hajjah Governorate:** Undertook a comprehensive photography mission in Hajjah governorate, documenting the step-by-step process of establishing community resilience plans.
- **Dynamic Social Media Engagement:** Drafted, scheduled, and shared compelling social media content on platforms associated with ERRY III and the participating UN agencies. This content

highlighted various international observance days, such as World Health Day, Women's International Day, Earth Day, Water Day, Bee Day, and International Youth Day.

- Comprehensive Documentation Planning: Established an inclusive documentation plan that encompasses all facets of the joint programme. The aim was to create a unified and comprehensive documentation capturing all programme activities comprehensively.
- Impactful Animated Video Outreach: Created and distributed a whiteboard animated video that succinctly communicated the programme's objectives, components, and impact to Yemen's most vulnerable populations.
- On-site Field Documentation Missions: Executed on-site documentation field missions in specific targeted governorates and districts in south and north. This encompassed capturing impactful photographs, narratives, and testimonials from programme beneficiaries, thereby enriching the overall documentation.
- Commemorating International Youth Day through Collaborative Video: Developed a commemorative video for International Youth Day, spotlighting the collaborative partnership between the EU, Sweden, and four UN agencies. This partnership's focus was on empowering Yemeni youth, fostering sustainable income sources, and elevating livelihoods while bolstering food security.
- Collaborative Meetings and Annual Plan: Conducted multiple meetings with the Communications Working Group to implement the Communications Annual Plan for 2023, which was shared with participating UN agencies for input.
- Strategic Communication Plan: Developed a comprehensive communication plan aligned with the EU's new campaign-driven communication strategy.
- Press Releases: Crafted press releases focusing on the EU's visit to ERRY, Steering Committee outcomes, and key discussions, enhancing outreach to targeted communities.
- Empowering Partners: Organized communication training sessions in Aden and Hodeidah, covering essential topics for UN agencies and implementing partners.
- Water Gabions Video: Developed a video highlighting the impact of ERRY III water gabions on water conservation and improved agricultural production.
- Women's International Day Video: Created a video honoring Women's International Day, highlighting the joint programme's contributions.
- Resilience Building Photography: Undertook a comprehensive photography mission in Hajjah governorate, documenting the establishment of community resilience plans.
- Comprehensive Documentation Planning: Established an inclusive documentation plan capturing all facets of the joint programme.
- Animated Video Outreach: Created and distributed a whiteboard animated video communicating the programme's objectives and impact to vulnerable populations.
- ERRY Webpage: Established and updated a dedicated webpage in English and Arabic, providing information on project objectives, gender empowerment activities, geographical coverage, and expected results.

- **Visibility in the Field:** Ensured ERRY's field visibility in all project sites through coordination with implementing partners in the south and north.
- **IPS Coordination Meetings:** Held regular coordination meetings with implementing partners to document ERRY's progress, achievements, and milestones.
- **Communication Products:** Published impactful written stories on UNDP and ERRY webpages and created videos highlighting programme objectives on social media.
- **Social Media Campaigns:** Advocated for and promoted ERRY's interventions, achievements, and progress on UNDP's social media platforms, including campaigns on International Day of Peace.

9.2 M&E and Accountability

During the reporting period, the following monitoring and evaluation activities were undertaken:

Results Oriented Monitoring (ROM) Review

The ROM review, conducted in July 2023 by independent consultants hired by the EUD, aimed to provide an external assessment of the program's implementation and support program management and implementing partners through advice and recommendations.

The ROM review focused on assessing the programme's progress in terms of input provision, activities undertaken, and results achieved, including outputs and direct outcomes. Various aspects and criteria were examined, such as relevance, coordination, intervention logic, efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability, cross-cutting issues (including gender participation and empowerment, environment, and climate adaptation), and communication and visibility.

The review involved examination of programme documents and reports, as well as meaningful interviews with the project management team, implementing partners, relevant stakeholders, and beneficiaries. Additionally, a field visit was organized for a national consultant to observe program sites and engage with beneficiaries directly.

The ROM review identified both strengths and areas for improvement in programme implementation. A debriefing session was subsequently held with the program management team to present the review's findings, highlight strengths, and provide recommendations for addressing emerging questions and challenges as well as ensure the programme's ongoing effectiveness and success.

Progress Reports

Quarterly progress reports have been produced and distributed to relevant stakeholders, providing comprehensive information on the program's accomplishments and activities throughout each quarter of 2023. Furthermore, the ERRY III Annual Narrative Report has been compiled and shared with the MPTF, donors, and other pertinent stakeholders.

Targeted Households Profiling

The program has conducted household profiling of a selected sample of households targeted by the ERRY Joint Programme. The purpose of this data collection is to monitor and objectively measure changes in the income, livelihoods, and food security of the targeted households. The household profiling tool was administered prior to the program interventions and will be administered again after the implementation of the interventions to assess the impact of the programme.

Field Monitoring visits

During the reporting period, the EU and the programme team from the JCU and PUNOs conducted three joint field missions, one in the northern governorates and two in the southern region as highlighted below.

1. EU Field mission to Hajjah, Hudaydah, and Al-Mahweet

In September 2023, the EU delegation conducted a mission to Sana'a and the targeted governorates in north including Hajjah, Hudaydah, and Al-Mahweet. The primary objective of the EUD visit was to closely monitor the implementation of programme activities and interact with relevant stakeholders, including local authorities, communities, and beneficiaries. Throughout the visit, the EUD held productive meetings with the SCMCHA and the relevant ministries at both the national and local levels.

The EUD, together with the programme team, conducted an extensive field visit to Hajjah, Hudaydah, and Mahweet, which allowed the mission team to gain valuable insights and firsthand knowledge of the initiatives' progress and impact.

In Hajjah, the EUD observed several initiatives including distribution of animal feed and equipment to support farmers in feeding their livestock during the winter season; the provision of the business and life skills training program, which aimed to equip beneficiaries with essential skills to start and manage their income-generating microbusinesses; the renovation of the health unit in Emarah village of Al-Shaathema'a subdistrict to enhance access to healthcare services for the community; provision of a solar system to Al Haseeb health facility to improve its energy efficiency and ensure uninterrupted healthcare services.

The mission team also observed the apprenticeship training program that included class-based training on vocational and life skills, financial literacy, occupational safety and health, etc. Some of the female beneficiaries expressed their desire to engage in alternative occupations like mobile maintenance.

Additionally, the mission team observed the rehabilitation and construction of a 3-kilometer road in Al-Sha'athama, which is a main road that connects several villages and provides access to the district central market. Local communities indicated that the rehabilitated road would improve transportation, reduce costs, and enhance their access to basic services.



The team also visited the water network project in Al-Kharsha - Al-Dhamer subdistrict, which was identified as a high-priority initiative in the CRP. The project has improved access to water by effectively connecting 250 households to the water network.

The team also had the opportunity to observe a marketing center established for the Bajil dairy women's group. The main aim of this center is to strengthen the dairy marketing value chain. The center has been equipped with essential facilities including a refrigerator, air conditioning, solar system, shelves, and other necessary equipment. These provisions empower the women's group to efficiently store and promote their dairy products, leading to improved product quality and enhanced profitability.

In Hudaydah, The EUD visited some of the ongoing projects in Bajil district such as the restoration of an irrigation canal. The communities emphasized the notable positive impacts of the water canal rehabilitation including the prevention of flood damage to their farmlands and the utilization of floodwaters for irrigation purposes.



In Mahweet, the EUD visited some of the programme activities in At-Tawilah district including the craftspersons training, a tomato factory center, and the rehabilitation of a water tank. These initiatives focused on skills training, agro-processing, and improving water infrastructure.

Overall, the field visit provided valuable insights into the progress, challenges, and impact of the programme, and allowed the mission team to engage with local authorities, communities, and beneficiaries.

2. EU Field mission to Lahj

The EU delegation conducted a field mission to Tuban district in Lahj in June 2023 to see the programme activities being implemented there. The delegation visited a dairy marketing center that was established to sell dairy products. The center was operated by women's groups who received support from the FAO component of the joint programme. The delegation also visited a dairy product processing center that was established during ERRY I and has been expanded and upgraded during ERRY II and III. The programme provided technical trainings on dairy product processing and marketing, as well as on operating the dairy equipment.

The delegation also visited the ILO's ongoing trainings of trainers (TOT) programme at the TVT training center in Tuban. The TOT training covered various vocational skills that are in high demand in the market, such as solar power maintenance, air conditioning maintenance, mobile maintenance, cooking, sewing, hairdressing, and electrician work. The delegation met with the trainees and discussed the training materials that were being used in the apprenticeship programme.

The delegation also visited the UNDP market rehabilitation cash for work activities. They met with the beneficiaries of the UNDP Short Term Employment and Livelihood (UNDP) component, which was facilitated by UNDP and the local partner, For All Foundation (FAF).

The delegation also visited the school construction activities that were being implemented through the WFP Food for Assets (FFA) programme, in collaboration with WFP partners CARE International. The delegation gained insights into the progress that had been made, including the extension of two classrooms during ERRY II and the current construction of three additional classrooms and a fence during the third phase of the programme. The EU provided recommendations to enhance the quality of the rehabilitated school with the aim of improving education outcomes. These recommendations will be taken into account by the programme.

The delegation also attended a UNDP social cohesion training session for inside mediators. These mediators were being trained by UNDP partners, Social Fund for Development (SFD), to effectively resolve conflicts within targeted communities and provide grants to support conflict resolution efforts. It was noted that half of the trainees were women, who expressed their satisfaction and eagerness to contribute to conflict resolution in their communities.



The delegation also visited a UNDP water project, a community resilience plan initiative through the local governance component, which aimed to connect water to households in various villages. The project was implemented by the Social Fund for Development (SFD). The EU delegates had the opportunity to enter one of the households and engage with women who had benefited from this initiative. The beneficiaries emphasized that the project was selected based on the priority needs of women in the village who had been suffering from a lack of water access. They highlighted the challenges they faced, such as having to walk long distances to fetch water for their households. The women expressed the significance of this project for all villagers, particularly the women who had to carry water on a daily basis.

3. EU field monitoring visit to Tuban district, Lahj:

In January 2023, the EU delegation, along with PUNOs, conducted a field monitoring mission to Tuban district in Lahj. The mission team met with members from the Village Cooperative Councils (VCCs) and Sub District Committee (SDCs) who were trained on community resilience planning and conflict resolution. The committee members described their role in working with local authorities, primarily by raising the plans and proposals to the district manager and other relevant local authorities. The members also highlighted the crucial and leading role played by female members within the committees in the planning, development, and implementation of Community Resilience Plan priorities projects.



During the mission, the team had the opportunity to meet with beneficiaries of ERRY's livelihood interventions, who had established their own income-generating microbusinesses. The mission members observed a variety of small businesses run by households, aimed at generating income to support their families.

Following that, the team visited a group of apprentices who had successfully completed their training and graduated from the occupational skills development and apprenticeship program. The apprentices shared their experiences during the training and after graduation, highlighting the positive changes they have witnessed in their lives. They discussed the skills they acquired and how these skills have enabled them to market their products effectively.

The mission team also visited the supported the dairy processing unit in Saber area and met with the women group there. The dairy processing women shared their success in producing dairy products and earning daily net profits through the support of modern equipment and training provided by the program. They expressed the need for additional support, such as cows, to increase their income by reducing the cost of purchasing milk. The group also highlighted the significant benefits of the solar system provided by the programme and requested assistance in rehabilitating a small bathroom in their unit for their use during their long work hours.

Moreover, the team visited a rehabilitated waterway channel in AlHaski village, Tuban district, which irrigates approximately 55 acres of farmland and serves around 220 households. The project involved removing harmful trees, cleaning waste deposits, constructing a bridge over the channel, and installing gabions for flood protection. The villagers expressed their gratitude as the rehabilitated asset has resolved their difficulties in accessing markets, essential services, and medical facilities, benefiting around 5,000 villagers across five villages.



Despite the challenges and security restrictions around movement and travel to the projects sites, the programme team managed to conduct four field monitoring visits to the targeted areas in both south and north as part of the monitoring activities. The visits served multiple purposes, including monitoring the progress of implementation, verifying the accuracy of reported data, and engaging with beneficiaries and local authorities. In the south, the programme team conducted two field visits, one to Radfan District in Lahj and Al Ma'afar district in Taiz and one to Al-Maqatiah and Al-Madhariba districts in Lahj in order to monitor and track the progress of the programme activities in these districts. However, the team was not able to visit the target districts in Abyan governorate due to security restrictions. Also, in the north, the team conducted two field visits to the targeted governorates of Hajjah, Hudaydah, and Mahweet.

Moreover, two joint field visits were organized with PUNOs, one in the south and one in the north for the purpose of observing each others activities and explore areas of synergies and complementarity.

Joint Field Mission with Authorities:

Two joint field missions were conducted with local authorities from SCMCHA and relevant line ministries to monitor the progress of the ERRY III programme in Hodiedah, Bajil District. The mission participants visited some of the project sites implemented under various components, including road rehabilitation, school construction, water tank installation, water channel rehabilitation, water network, health center rehabilitation. The visited assets were nearly 100% complete, and beneficiaries and communities expressed appreciation for the assistance received and community development support. Local authorities expressed satisfaction with the programme's progress on the ground and emphasized the importance of regular field visits for effective implementation.

Authorities Field mission to Hajjah, Sada'a, Hudaydah, and Mahweet: During October and November 2023, authorities from SCMCHA and representatives from relevant ministries conducted four field monitoring visits to the targeted districts in Hajjah, Sada'a, Hudaydah, and Mahweet

governorates in the north. The purpose of the field visits is to assess the implementation of the programme activities and interventions, interact with local authorities and communities, and provide recommendations for improvement. The observations and recommendations made during these visits were thoroughly discussed with the programme team and partners for enhancement of the programme implementation.

Additionally, a field visit district was carried out by the UNDP Deputy Resident Representative and the project team to Tuban district to closely observe and assess the activities being implemented in the area. The team gained valuable insights into the progress, challenges, and effectiveness of the initiatives allowing for a more comprehensive evaluation and informed decision-making for the county office programming strategies.

Market Assessments

UNDP and ILO conducted market assessments of the highly demanded occupations in the markets per district. The assessments were conducted to identify the skills and training that are needed to meet the demand for labor in the markets.

FFA Activities Dashboard

A dashboard to monitor the implementation of FFA activities has been developed, serving as a tracking tool of the status and progress of the asset's rehabilitation/construction. Below is the link leading to the dashboard.

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/a35f6be7cfc7449e9a209ab726a6f703>

M&E Working Group Meetings

The M&E working group, consisting of M&E technical focal point from each agency, organized regular technical meetings during the reporting period. These meetings served as a platform to discuss the progress of the M&E plan, address challenges encountered in its implementation, and generate decisions and recommendations for improvement. The collaborative nature of these meetings facilitated coordination and ensured the effective implementation of the M&E activities.

Progress Tracking Tools:

A Coordination Tracking Sheet has been developed and shared with implementing partners in both regions to monitor progress and facilitate effective coordination. Partners update and submit the sheet on a monthly basis, allowing for timely assessment, challenges identification, and support provision. Similarly, Indicator Tracking Tool (ITT) has been utilized to monitor the programme's progress using the established indicators.

Baseline Assessment

During the reporting period, FAO conducted a baseline study to assess the three outcome indicators associated with its implemented component. Questionnaires for household surveys and checklists for different household groups were developed to gather data on agriculture and livestock production and productivity. The survey employed structured and/or semi-structured interviews. The baseline household profiling survey aimed to cover all project-targeted governorates.

Tracking Implementation of the Gender Action Plan: The Gender Action Plan was collaboratively updated with technical specialists to ensure effective integration and implementation of gender considerations.

Development and Sharing of Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) Tool

UNDP has developed and shared a Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) Tool with implementing partners of the Livelihood component. This tool is designed to enhance monitoring and evaluation efforts, allowing for the assessment of the impact and effectiveness of livelihood interventions. Additionally, a training and business plans scoring tool has been developed and shared with Livelihood component implementing partners to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of training programs and business plans.

WFP Monitoring and Grievance Mechanism

WFP's cooperating partners and WFP itself conducted monitoring visits to ensure adherence to guidelines for FFA and FFT activities. WFP's hotline was available for beneficiaries to address grievances, resulting in approximately 1,500 cases received in 2023. Most cases involved inquiries, concerns about incentives, implementation period requests, cash transfer delays, and deductions. WFP successfully resolved 97% of the cases, with the remaining under investigation.

Coordination:

➤ **Coordination meeting with authorities at the central level:**

As part of the programme's efforts to facilitate the programme implementation and ensure effective collaboration, coordination meetings were organized with authorities and other relevant ministries' representatives in the both southern and northern regions of Yemen.

During the meetings, the Participating UN Organizations and their IPs presented an overview of the programme's implementation progress in the targeted governorates, highlighting the achievements, ongoing activities, and plans. They also highlighted and addressed the challenges encountered, particularly the delay in granting implementation permits to FAO IPs in the north, which has affected the timely execution of their projects.

The participants engaged in a constructive dialogue to expedite the implementation process on the ground. Recommendations were made to further enhance the programme's effectiveness and ensure the successful execution of the activities on the ground. These included implementation of the programme acceleration plan as well as intensifying the activities to maximize the programme's impact.

➤ **Technical Coordination meetings:** The programme team conducted several internal meetings with the team from the four agencies involved in the programme. These meetings were structured to promote joint planning, enhance communication, and facilitate the exchange of ideas, expertise, and lessons learned. The meetings also provided an opportunity for the team members to align their efforts, identify potential synergies, and address any challenges or bottlenecks encountered during the implementation phase.

➤ **Field-Level Coordination:**

In terms of coordination with local authorities in both Hudaida and Aden hubs, several activities were undertaken that have facilitated and had a positive impact on the programme's implementation.

1. Bi-annual coordination meetings have been organized for each of the target governorates separately. The coordination meetings included representatives from local authorities, and relevant ministries at the governorate level, and PUNOs field focal points and implementing partners. The meeting involved detailed presentations of activities progress by IPs, as well as lessons learned and challenges, leading to fruitful discussions and the generation of outputs and recommendations.



2. Monthly internal coordination meetings with IPs and PUNOs field focal points have been organized, mainly to discuss the status and progress of implementation, challenges faced, exchanging experiences and data, and establishing a coordinated work pathway for the activities at the field level.
3. Daily follow-up was conducted to monitor IPs implementation, obtaining permissions in the field, and addressing any urgent issues that arise to ensure smooth operations
4. Enhancing synergies among the various partners and interventions through a number of activities including:
 - creating a platform for IPs and PUNOs to share their achievements and progress and suggest new ideas related to synergy and cooperation;
 - Identifying areas of potential synergies;
 - targeting same sub-districts and communities where possible;
 - tracking synergy among IPs and PUNOs for better implementation;
 - address areas of synergy with other projects such as SIERY project.

➤ **Technical meeting with donors:**

During the reporting period, quarterly technical meetings were organized with the donors of the programme. The main objectives of the meetings were to review the progress of programme implementation and discuss the challenges encountered. The programme team, along with the participating UN agencies, provided detailed updates on the implementation status of their respective components as well as the challenges and issues arise during implementation and what corrective measures undertaken to address them. Donors expressed satisfaction that the programme activities have been progressing smoothly despite the complexities and challenges of the current context, particularly in the northern areas. They have also provided valued recommendations, guidance, and high-level support if needed to address the challenges faced.

10. Annexes

Annex 1: ERRY III Implementing Partners

Agency	Implementing Partner	Gov.	Component / Area of Intervention
WFP	Relief International (RI)	Hajjah	Food assistance For Assets, Training (FFA) / (FFT)
	Building Foundation for Development (BFD)	Hudaydah Al-Mahweet Sa'ada	
	Care International	Lahj Abyan	
	Small and Micro Enterprise Promotion Service (SMEPS)	Ta'iz	
UNDP	Social Fund for Development (SFD)	All Gov.	Local Governance / Social Cohesion
	Sustainable Development Foundation (SDF)	Hajjah	Livelihood
	Life Maker Meeting Place Organization (LMMPO)	Hudaydah, Al-Mahweet	
	Tamdeen Youth Foundation (TYF)	Abyan Ta'iz	
	For All Foundation	Lahj	
FAO	Sada Foundation for Building & Development	Hajjah Sa'ada	Agriculture Value Chain
	STEPS Foundation for Development	Abyan	
	Assistance for Response and Development (ARD)	Lahj Ta'iz	
	Sustainable Development Foundation (SDF)	Hudaydah, Al-Mahweet	
ILO	Social Fund for Development (SFD)	Abyan Lahj Ta'iz	Skills & Entrepreneurship Development
	Ghadaq for Development	Hajjah, Hudaydah Al-Mahweet	

Annex 2: Table for Activities details

Table 1: Progress of activities implementation

Activities' Indicators	Hudaydah	Hajjah			Taiz	Lahj			Abyan		Mahweet	Total
	Bajil	Bani Alawam	Najrah	Shagh adirah	Almafir	AlMaqat irah	Tuban	Al-Madariba	Lawdar	Ahwar	Tawilah	
Formation and activation of VCCs	15	20	30	25	49	70	24	21	27	20	25	326
Development of CRPs	15	20	30	25	49	70	24	21	27	20	25	326
No. of VCCs members elected and trained	250	163	314	364	336	586	218	226	245	175	253	3,130
Formation of SDCs	5	4	3	6	5	6	3	4	5	4	5	50
Community Resilience plans developed	5	4	3	6	5	6	3	4	5	4	5	50
Self-help initiatives by VCCs	15	24	81	42	85	70	24	20	26	20	25	432
Community grant-matching for VCCs	8	11	14	12	10	13	3	0	5	5	8	89

Table 2: Compact and Self-help Initiatives and Projects

Activities' Indicators	Hudaydah	Hajjah			Taiz	Lahj			Abyan		Mahwee	Total
	Bajil	Bani Alawam	Najrah	Shagh adirah	Almafir	Maqatirah	Tuban	Madariba	Lawdar	Ahwar	Tawilah	
Supported projects under implementation	0	0	2	2	6	17	0	0	0	0	6	33
Supported projects completed	4	10	19	13	6	0	2	0	0	0	2	56
Self-help initiatives implemented by VCCs	15	24	81	42	85	70	24	20	26	20	25	432

Table 3: Sectoral Breakdown of Supported Projects

Districts/ Sectors	Bajil	Najrah	Shaghadirah	Bani Alawam	Almafir	Maqatirah	At Tawila	Tuban	Total
Water	1	1	0	2	1	3	2	2	12
Health	1	3	2		2	3		0	11
Education	2	3	4		5	4	1	0	19
Road	0	14	9	8	4	7	5	0	47
Total	45	21	15	10	12	17	8	2	89⁶

⁵ These are all subdistrict level projects.

⁶ This total includes the conflict resolution priorities interventions in social cohesion.

Table 4: Conflict Scans Conducted Per District

Activities' Indicators	Hajjah		Taiz		Lahj		Abyan		Mahweet		Total
	Bani Alawam	Najrah	Shaghadirah	Almafir	Maqatirah	Tuban	Madariba	Lawdar	Ahwar	Tawilah	
No. of conflict scans conducted at the SD levels	4	2	6	5	6	3	4	5	4	0	39

Table 5: Community Mediators and SDCs Members Trained on Conflict Resolution

District	# of SDCs	Community mediators			SDCs members		
		M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Tuban	3	21	4	25	24	24	48
Almaqatira	6	35	5	40	43	39	82
Bani Alawam	4	34	2	36	49	45	94
Najrah	2	17	1	18	16	14	30
Ash Shaghadirah	6	52	0	52	58	54	112
Almafir	5	35	5	40	61	54	115
Ahwar	4	21	8	29	24	20	44
Lawdar	5	34	7	41	54	54	108
Al-Medarebah	4	28	0	28	20	17	37
Total	39	277	32	309	349	321	670

Table 6: Conflict Resolutions Supported Projects by Sectors and Districts

District	Education	Health	Road	Water	Agriculture	Total
Tuban		1		1	1	3
Almaqatira	1		1			2
Bani Alawam		1	3			4
Najrah			2			2
Ash Shaghadirah	1		1			2
Almafir		1	1	1		3
Ahwar				2		2
Total	2	3	8	4	1	18

Table 7: Total number of registered beneficiaries disaggregated by district.

Governorate	District	Total registered BNFs
Lahj	Al Maqatirah	661
	Al Madaribah	1,856
	Tuban	1,634
Taizz	Al Ma'afer	2,849
Abyan	Khanfir	1,100
	Lawder	2,840
	Ahwar	2,230
Hajjah	Bani Al-Awam	954
	Najrah	624
	Ash Shaghadirah	524
Hodaidah	Al Qanawis	1,210
	Bajil	1,763
Al-Mahweet	Al-Tawilah	1,810
Sa'adah	Haydan	2,145
Total		22,000

Table 8: AVC FDG &KII total interviews

Gov	Value chain type	FDG	KII	Total
Taizz	Seed	2	2	4
	Fattening	2	0	2
	Dairy	0	7	7
	Tomatoes	2	2	4
Lahj	Seed	2	1	3
	Fattening	2	0	2
	Dairy	0	4	4
	Tomatoes	2	3	5
Abyan	Seed	2	9	11
	Fattening	2	3	5
	Dairy	0	2	2
	Tomatoes	2	2	4
Total		18	35	53

Table 9: Number of Craftspersons Per Occupation in Southern Governorates

Governorate	Lahj		Abyan		Taiz		Total Males	Total Females	Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F			
Air condition maintenance	9						9	0	9
Solar panels installation, repair, & maintenance	16		16		5		37	0	37
Cloth design and dressmaking		17		5		9	0	31	31
Food processing		10					0	10	10

Mobile maintenance	5		5		4		14	0	14
Beauty therapy		5		7		6	0	18	18
Pastries and sweets making						6	0	6	6
Motorcycle maintenance			4		6		10	0	10
Bee keeping & honey producing			8				8	0	8
Total	30	32	33	12	15	21	78	65	143

Table 10: Number of Apprentices Per Occupation in Southern Governorates

Governorate	Lahj		Abyan		Taiz		Total Males	Total Females	Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F			
Air condition maintenance	20						20	0	20
Solar panels installation, repair, & maintenance	40		42		15		97	0	97
Cloth design and dressmaking		38		15		20	0	73	73
Food processing		20					0	20	20
Mobile maintenance	20		20		14	5	54	5	59
Beauty therapy		15		37		15	0	67	67
Pastries and sweets making						16	0	16	16
Motorcycle maintenance			15		15		30	0	30
Bee keeping & honey producing			19				19	0	19
Total	80	73	97	52	44	56	221	181	402

Table 11: Number of Craftspersons Per Occupation in Northern Governorates

Governorate	Al-Mahweet		Hajjah		Total Males	Total Females	Total
	M	F	M	F			
Beekeeping and honey production	0	0	0	11	0	11	11
Home appliances maintenance	2	0	0	0	2	0	2
Embroidery, cloth design and dress making	0	9	8	0	8	9	17
Solar panels installation, repair, and maintenance	6	0	0	1	6	1	7
Mobil maintenance	4	0	0	4	4	4	8
Incense and perfume production	0	4	8	0	8	4	12
Veterinary and livestock care	0	0	0	2	0	2	2
Motorcycle maintenance	4	0	0	10	4	10	14
Confectioneries, cakes and bread making	0	5	5	0	5	5	10
Handcrafts for crochet products	0	4	0	0	0	4	4
Total	16	22	21	28	37	50	87

Table 12: Number of Apprentices Per Occupation in Northern Governorates

Governorate	Al-Mahweet		Hajjah		Total Males	Total Females	Total
	M	F	M	F			
Beekeeping and honey production	0	0	20	0	20	0	20
Home appliances maintenance	22	0	0	0	22	0	22
Embroidery, cloth design and dress making	0	25	0	40	0	65	65
Solar panels installation, repair, and maintenance	25	0	18	0	43	0	43
Mobil maintenance	25	0	20	0	45	0	45
Incense and perfume production	0	25	0	40	0	65	65
Veterinary and livestock care	0	0	19	0	19	0	19
Motorcycle maintenance	25	0	20	0	45	0	45
Confectioneries, cakes and bread making	0	25		20	0	45	45
Handcrafts for crochet products	0	24	0	0	0	24	24
Total	97	99	97	100	194	199	393

Annex 3: Women Economic Empowerment Specific Indicators' Progress

Indicator	Planned Gender Targets		Actual Gender Targets		Status
	Overall Targets	Gender Specific Targets	Reporting period	Cumulative total	
Percentage of female members of VCC and SDCs in the targeted areas	200	60	330	330	Achieved
Number of women-led Village Cooperative Councils (VCCs/SDCs) and in the targeted areas	0	5	5	5	Achieved
Number of projects addressing women needs inside the Community Resilience Plans (CRP) developed at sub-district level, with support of the intervention (at least include one project addressing women needs)	40	16	16	16	Achieved
Number of infrastructure facilities built or rehabilitated in the communities with support of the intervention project addressing women needs (disaggregated by built/rehabilitated)	140	10	11	11	On-track
Number of community representatives who increase their knowledge on social cohesion, conflict mitigation and resolution (disaggregated by woman/man and age), with support of the intervention	120	35	32	32	On-track
Number of people engaged in the Community Dialogues for conflict resolution in the targeted communities (disaggregated by women/men/age)	500	150	185	185	Achieved
Number of Community Dialogues jointly led by women/youth for conflict resolution in the targeted communities.	25	7	18	18	Achieved
Number of public service representatives who increase their knowledge and skills on operation and maintenance (OM) of solar service provision (disaggregated by women/men)	420	50	10	10	On-track
Number of people who increase their knowledge and skills on decentralized renewable energy innovation and solutions (disaggregated by women/men and age), with support of the intervention	250	50	0	0	On-track

Indicator	Planned Gender Targets		Actual Gender Targets		Status
	Overall Targets	Gender Specific Targets	Reporting period	Cumulative total	
Number of people provided with emergency employment through 3x6 approach (disaggregated by women/men and age)	4800	1500	1828	1828	Achieved
Number of community markets/ assets restored through 3x6 emergency employment, with the support of the intervention that addressing women needs.	24	1	4	4	Achieved
Number of beneficiaries who increase their knowledge in business development and life skills (disaggregated by women/men/age)	4800	1000	1798	1798	Achieved
Number of microbusinesses that receive training in business resilience (disaggregated by men/women and age of business owner), risk protection and decent job creation, and are formally linked to micro-finance institutions (MFIs)	3000	600	355	355	On-track
Number of females who receive Food/Cash Assistance for Assets (FFA) (disaggregated by women/men and age)	8,135	976	180	180	<i>On-track</i>
Number of community-based assets established that directly addressing women needs	150	30	5	5	<i>On-track</i>
Number of people who receive Food/Cash Assistance for Training (FFT) (disaggregated by women/men and age)	400	400	135	135	<i>On-track</i>
Total amount of cash transferred to targeted beneficiaries (disaggregated by women/men and age), with the support of the intervention	\$5,377,050	20% of allocated amount targets women	\$379,890	\$379,890	<i>On-track</i>
Number of people from the cooperatives certified on Think Coops, Start Coops, and My Coops to improve their business (disaggregated by women/men and age; active cooperatives/inactive cooperatives /informal self-help groups)	30	3	0	0	Under-preparation
Number of technicians certified in advanced vocational solar skills (disaggregated by women/men, age)	100	2	0	0	Under-preparation

Indicator	Planned Gender Targets		Actual Gender Targets		Status
	Overall Targets	Gender Specific Targets	Reporting period	Cumulative total	
Number of Cash for Work (C4W) and Food/Cash Assistance for Assets (FFA) beneficiaries certified as solar energy technicians (disaggregated by women/men, age)	200	20	0	0	<i>On-track</i> No women enrolled so far.
Number of trainers certified to use the Start and Improve your Business (SIYB) training packages (disaggregated by trainers/master trainers and by men/women and age)	80	20	9	9	<i>On-track</i>
Number of people from private sector and government institutions at district and governorate levels who increased their knowledge on participatory business continuity planning (disaggregated by women/men/age)	60	6	210	210	<i>Surpassed the target</i>
Number of beneficiaries of C4W and FFA certified in market-relevant technical skills (disaggregated by women/men and age)	1,200	480	381	381	<i>On-track</i>
Number of beneficiaries linked with job placement opportunities in collaboration with private sector (disaggregated by women/men/age)	960	192	190	190	<i>On-track</i>
Number of farmers who join the Climate Smart Agriculture technology groups set up with support of the intervention (disaggregated by women/men and age)	120	24	0	0	<i>Delayed</i>
Number of farmers who receive high-quality landrace seeds adapted to climate shocks with support of the intervention (disaggregated by women/men and age)	1000 farmers (50% women)	500	108	108	<i>Delayed</i>
Number of extension staff officers who increased their knowledge on climate smart agriculture and technologies with support of the intervention (disaggregated by women/men and age)	50 extension staff officers	10 female extension staff officers	9	9	<i>completed</i>
Number of women-led Water User Associations (WUA) supported to promote efficient water and land management.	15 WUAs	2	3 WUAs selected in Abyan	3	<i>On-track</i>
Percentage of female members of Water Users Associations (WUA)		20%	20	20	<i>On-track</i>

Indicator	Planned Gender Targets		Actual Gender Targets		Status
	Overall Targets	Gender Specific Targets	Reporting period	Cumulative total	
supported to promote efficient water and land management					
Number of women-led irrigation blocks set up and provided with appropriate technologies (solar systems, and drip irrigation) in the communities	5 irrigation blocks	1	0	0	On-track
Number of people reached by the awareness campaigns on watershed promotion (disaggregated by women/men and age)	210 men and 90 women	90	0	0	<i>Delayed</i>
Number of the formed crops, livestock, dairy farmer field Schools	80 FFS	10	10	10	<i>(FFSs were formed)</i>
Number of Community Animal Health Workers (CAHW) trained and provided with veterinary kits (disaggregated by women/men, and age)	50 new CAHWs	10	19	19	Achieved (15 femals-35 males)
Number of farmers provided with inputs (seeds, training, marketing support) to improve value chains [disaggregated by type of product (cereal, sorghum/millet, tomato, coffee) and women/men and age],	13000	500	(553 women)	15 women of landowners	On-track
Number of farmers who receive high quality animal feeds (feed concentrates, feed blocks and molasses) (disaggregated by women/men and age)	6,000	1,000	777	777	On-track
Number of dairy producers supported with training and dairy equipment (disaggregated by women/men and age)	3500	3500	1467	1467	On-track
Number of female dairy producers who join the Dairy Women network set up	0	2	4	4	On-track
Number of post-C4W beneficiaries who increase their knowledge on Good Agriculture Practices (GAP) of selected crop/livestock value chains (disaggregated by women/men/age)	1,000 women	350	0	0	Not started yet
Number of SMEs in agriculture value chains provided with training, link with markets and link with MFIs (disaggregated by the owner of SMEs women/men and age)	47 SMEs	47	0	0	<i>BNFs selected in south & under selection in north</i>