

# YEFP

**Innovative**  
Youth Economic Empowerment Project



# Youth Economic Empowerment Project

Youth unemployment is amongst the most challenging issues facing Yemen.

The **Youth Economic Empowerment Project** (YEEP) is the United Nations Development Programme's response to assist the Government of Yemen in providing youth with tangible benefits of the transition process through job creation. It falls under pillar II of the Mutual Accountability Framework (MAF) entitled "Create Employment Opportunities particularly for Youth and Women".

## Adressing the root causes of the Arab spring

The initial 2011 protests were led by young Yemenis giving voice to their demands for better livelihoods. While many people took to the streets in the hope for jobs, the short-term impact of the transition has led to even higher unemployment.

Reigniting economic growth, generating employment, providing tangible improvements in livelihoods are prerequisites for a successful transition in Yemen and will contribute directly to conflict prevention. The Government of Yemen, through its Youth Economic Empowerment Project (YEPP), therefore aims at reducing the risk of conflict by meeting the demand for gainful employment; a demand strongly voiced by the youth during the uprisings.

Creating employment opportunities for youth is not only a matter of economic growth, it is also a question of stability. Yemen's large youth population needs to see the peace dividend of the political transition process. The political solutions cannot be addressed in isolation from sustainable development and economical recovery. Yemenis need to see an impact over their livelihoods to restore their faith in the political reforms. Job creation is hence critical for the success of the current transition, and for long term development.

**"48 % of Yemeni youth are neither in education nor employment or training"**

Source: Youth Employment Action Plan, Yemen, Sept. 2013

*"Lack of employment and prospect for the youth has been at the basis of the so called Arab spring. Without addressing this priority, the political transition in the country risks being unsustainable",*  
Gustavo Gonzalez, UNDP Senior Country Director.

## Early Results

► Within the first months of the pilot, the "3x6 employment approach", through it's three phases, had a significant impact on the **560** youth beneficiares enrolled:

- **32,120** working days accomplished;
- **40,000,000YR** saved in in **560** newly created MFI savings accounts;
- **16,000,000YR** injected in the local economy within the first months;
- **236** businesses established.

► To **bridge the gap between youth and the labor market**, UNDP has build solid partnerships with the private sector. The project conducts it's job placement initiative through needs-identification in companies. Demand-driven training courses are being implemented accordingly. In 2013, **624** youth are being placed in partner companies. Through this project, participating private sector companies see that engaging with youth contributes to creating peace dividends more broadly, while improving their business success.

"Radio Yemen Times" is the first independent community radio station in Yemen, and run by youth. Together with UNDP, the first weekly business program was launched, "Turning Point", dedicated to youth entrepreneurship and practical help for unemployed youth.

## Innovation for Yemen



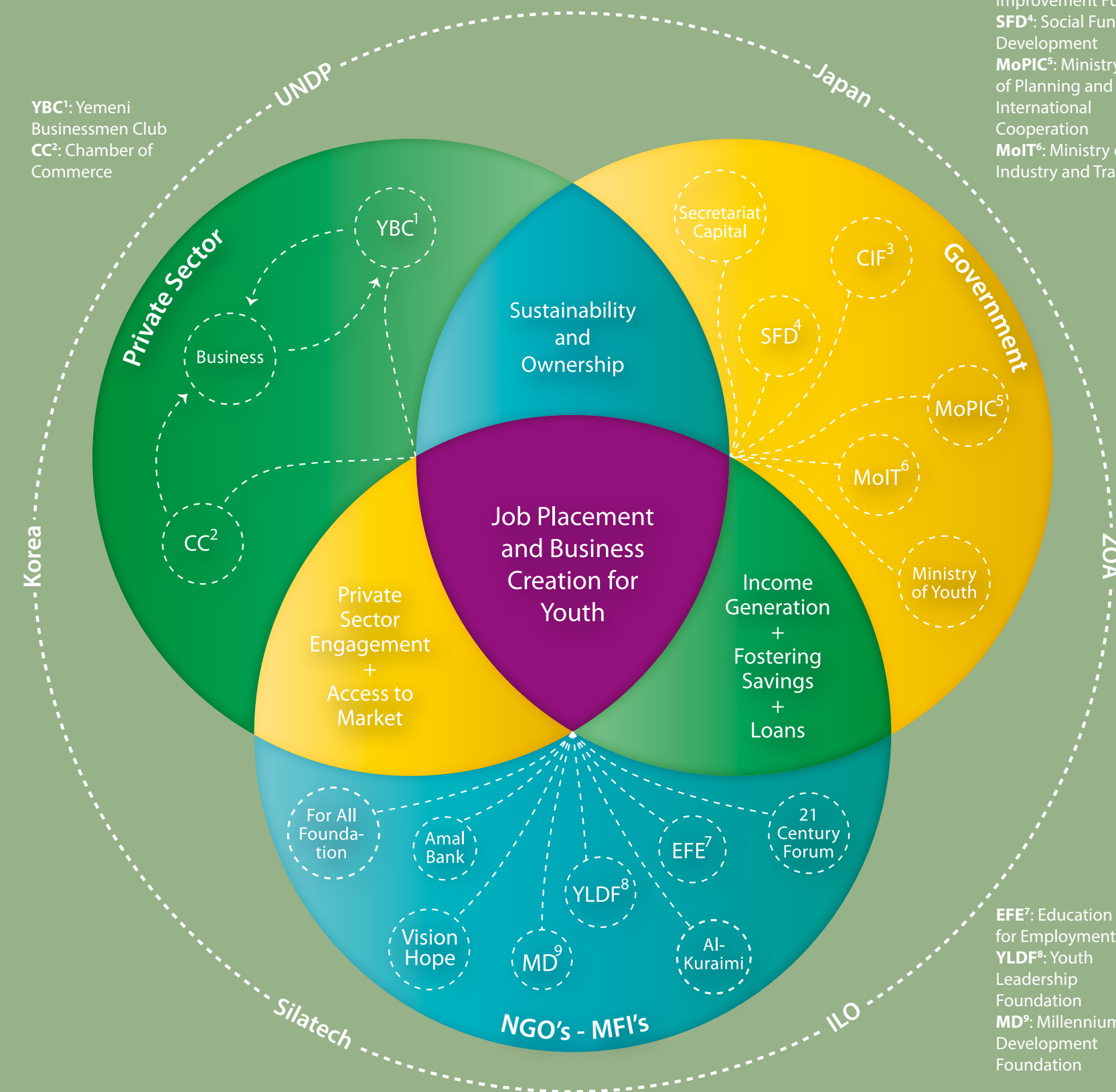
To capture and foster to the ingenuity, creativity and talents of Yemeni youth, YEEP has launched the "Innovation and Creativity Award". In this critical transition period, the award recognizes those who bring innovative projects that solve problems, provide solutions and can make a difference in business development. The most innovative business ideas are being rewarded with a prize of \$20,000 each (15 prizes), and receive implementation support from UNDP. [www.yemenyouthaward.com](http://www.yemenyouthaward.com)

## YEEP Employment Generation Network

YEEP is based in the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC) and directly implemented by UNDP with support from the Governments of Japan and Korea.

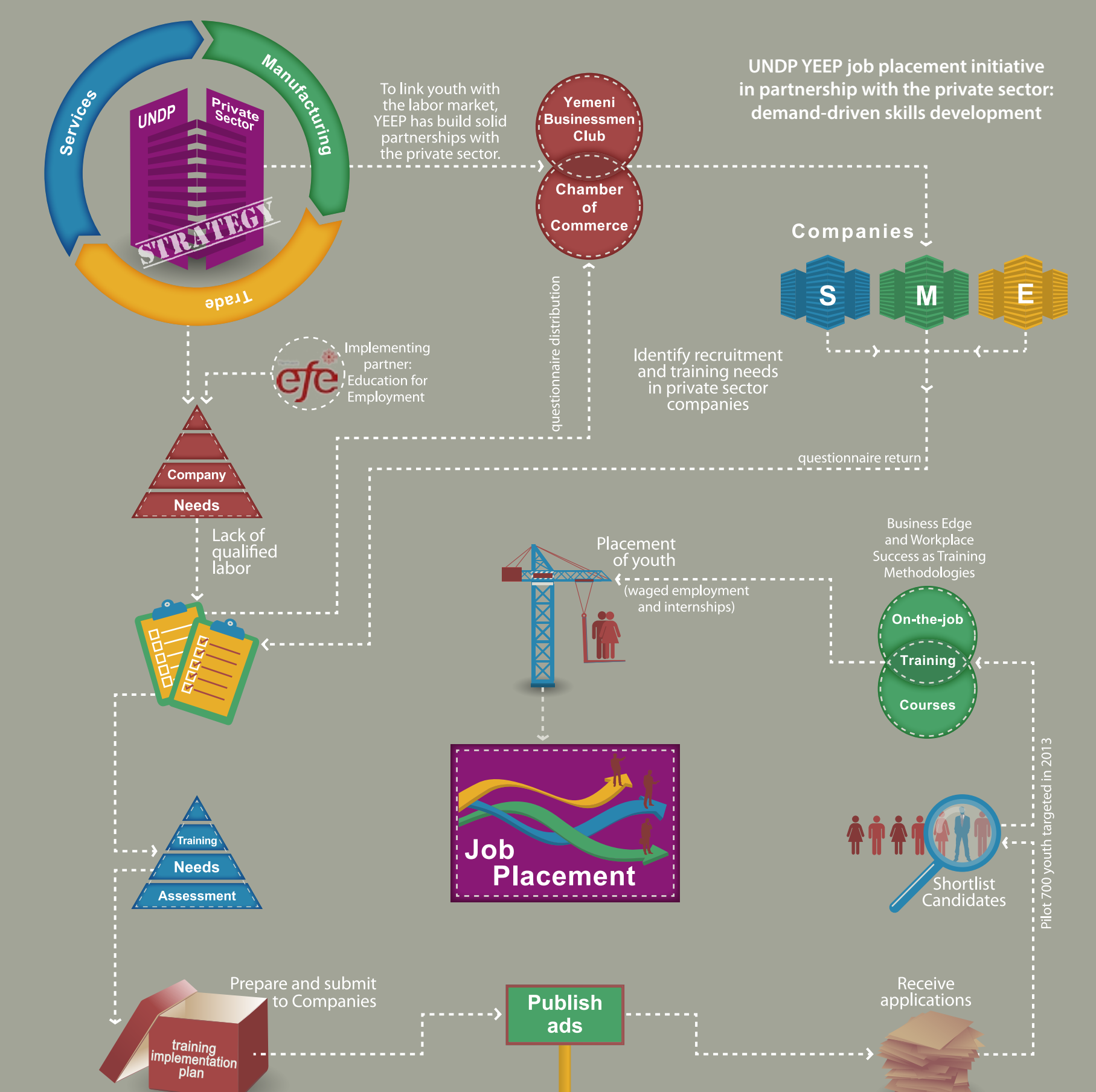
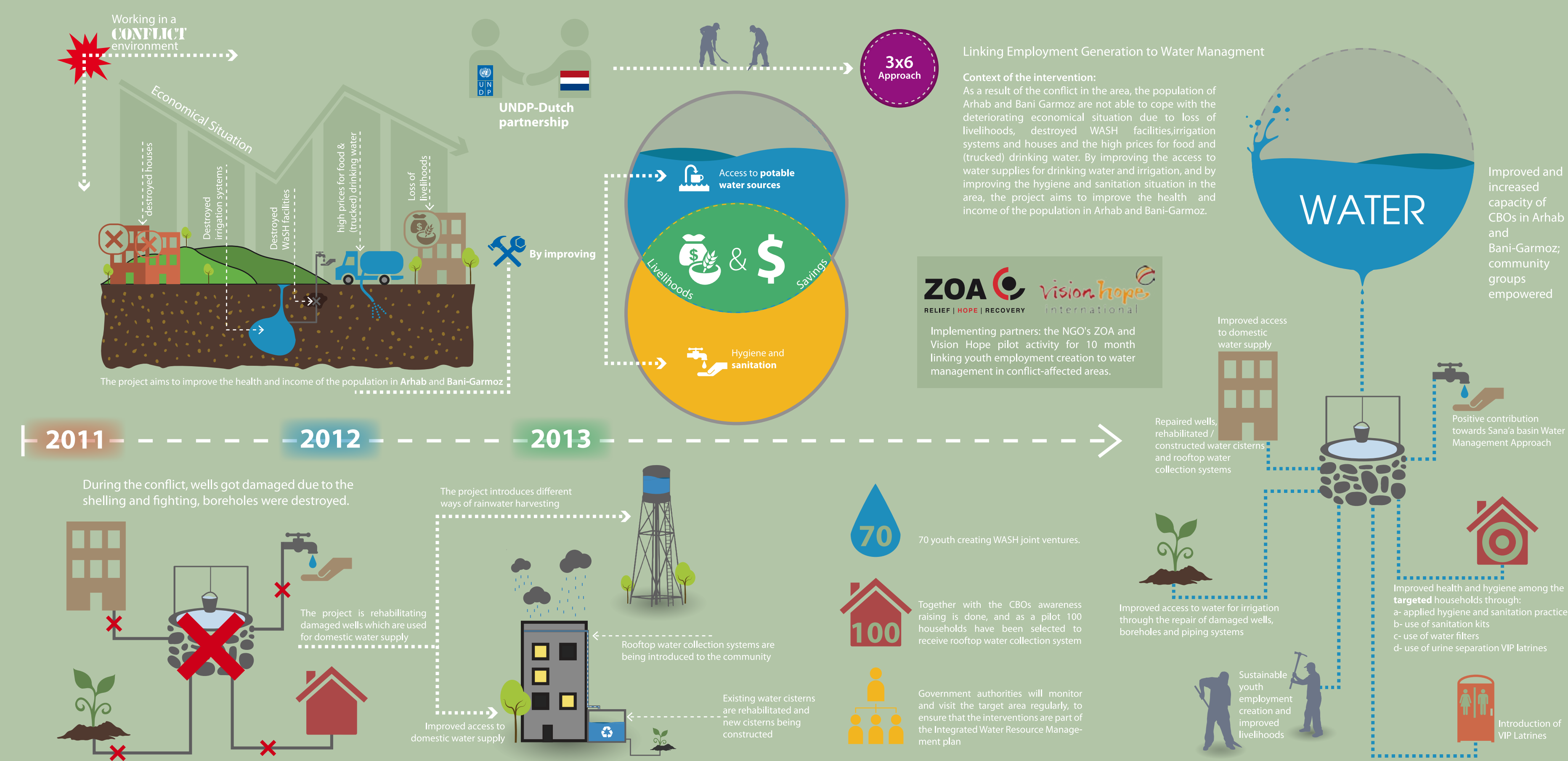
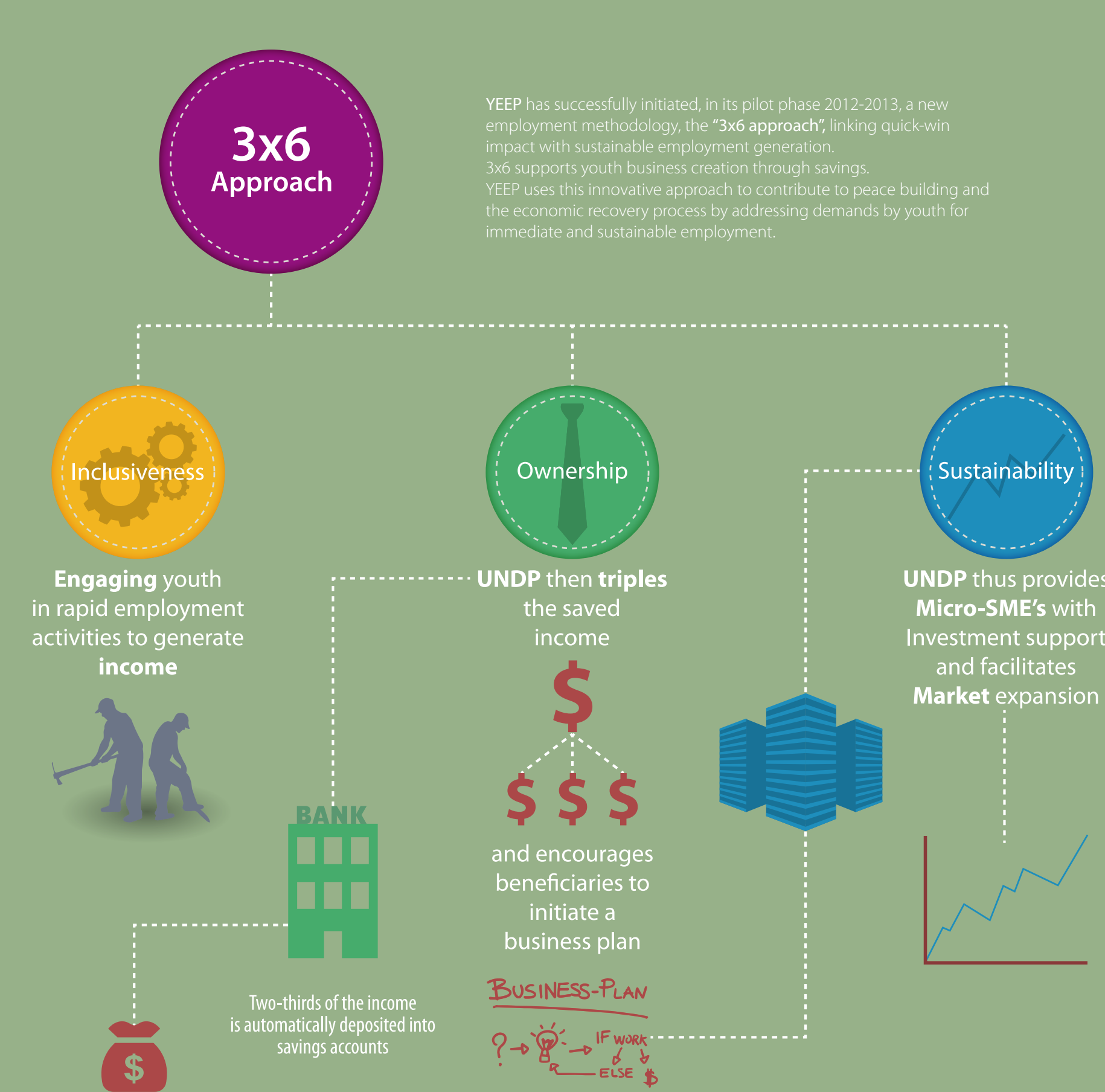
**YBC<sup>1</sup>**: Yemeni Businessmen Club  
**CC<sup>2</sup>**: Chamber of Commerce

**CIF<sup>3</sup>**: Cleaning and Improvement Fund  
**SFD<sup>4</sup>**: Social Fund for Development  
**MoPIC<sup>5</sup>**: Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation  
**MoIT<sup>6</sup>**: Ministry of Industry and Trade



**EFE<sup>7</sup>**: Education for Employment  
**YLDF<sup>8</sup>**: Youth Leadership Foundation  
**MD<sup>9</sup>**: Millennium Development Foundation







*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*



YEEP generates rapid and sustainable employment opportunities  
for vulnerable youth in Yemen.