

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



Baseline Study

Abyan, Lahj, and Ash
Shamaytayn in Taiz



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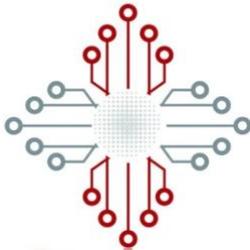


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Table of Acronyms

CBY	Central Bank of Yemen
CFW	Cash for Work
CSO	Civil Society Organization
ERRY	Enhance Rural Resilience in Yemen
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FGD	Focus Groups Discussion
ILO	International Labor Organization
IOM	International Organization of Migrant
KII	Key Informant Interviews
SFD	Social Fund for Development
SLA	Sustainable Livelihood Approach
SMEPS	Small and Micro Enterprise Promotion Service
UNDP	United Nation Development Program
USD	United States Dollar
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Program
YER	Yemeni Riyal

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Executive Summary

Supporting Resilient Livelihoods and Food Security in Yemen joint program (ERRY II) has been implemented since March 2019, and will end in February 2022. It is funded by the EU, and is implemented by FAO, ILO, UNDP, and WFP in six vulnerable governorates: Hajjah, Hodeida, Lahj, Abyan, Taiz, and Sana'a. The overall objective of the program is to contribute to reduce vulnerability and strengthen the resilience capacity of crisis-affected communities in Yemen through the creation of sustainable livelihoods and access to essential services. The specific objective (Outcome) of the program is that crisis-affected communities are more able to manage local risks and shocks for increased resilience and self-reliance

The findings of Supporting Resilient Livelihoods and Food Security in the Yemen joint program (ERRY II) can be outlined through discussing the results of crisis impact on the five capitals of livelihood, namely: Social Capital, Natural Capital, Physical Capital, Human Capital, and Financial Capital.

Since Social Capital deals with the social networks, groups, and relationships within the local communities, the study focused on 1) Community Committees, 2) Parents Council, 3) Village Council, 4) CSO, and 5) Social Figures. As stated by respondents of Ash Shamayatayn, Khanfir, and Serar districts, it has been found that these are the essential networks within the community that care about local communities' interest, while such entities considered less-important in Al Musaymir District but not the Social Figures as respondents believed that they are an essential asset in the community. Moreover, such groups, as mentioned earlier, are moderately available in Ash Shamayatayn, high in Khanfir, and slightly low in Serar and Al Musaymir. Continuously, the most available networks in Serar are the Parents Council and Social Figures, while in Al Musaymir, the most available ones are Social Figures. Also, the activities conducted by these networks are road pavement, supervising assistance of INGOs, orphans' clothing, and providing educational tools for people in need. Also, they did fundraising activities, whether through gathering the needed funds from the community members or the tradespersons and INGOs. Regarding gender representation, the results found that women are not represented efficiently within these social networks. The main reasons women refrain from participating in these networks are the community norms and the lack of female education within the community.

Regarding the Natural Capital, it includes natural resources and hazards, as it sheds light on the accessibility of water and land resources; also, it addresses the type of hazards and the seasonal calendar of the targeted districts. The interviewed households in this Baseline suffer to reach water and land sources, especially in Al Musaymir District-Lahj, and Serar District- Abyan. On the other hand, households from all districts reported weak availability of hazards mechanisms that may local communities follow to face natural hazards. Moreover, Al Musaymir and Serar districts are most vulnerable regarding access to water compared with other districts targeted in this Baseline.

Physical capital is concerned with the infrastructure related to the livelihood of the local community members such as Hospitals, Schools, Roads, Energy, Sanitation, and Central Markets. The interviewed

households within the targeted districts perceived all infrastructures of the Physical Capital as equally essential for them. However, the households of Al Musaymir stated that Central Market is less critical than the other infrastructures. Even though Schools are most available compared to the other infrastructures, they are still in bad condition needing improvement or extension to include more students. In contrast, targeted districts suffer from the lack of **Hospitals, Energy, Sanitation, and Roads**.

As for Human Capital, it deals with the capabilities, skills, and knowledge of households that need to improve their livelihoods more. It also focuses on the workforce status of the households as well as the work environment. Regarding getting knowledge, skills, or consultancy to improve household livelihoods is highly essential for Ash Shamayatayn households rather than the other targeted districts. Nevertheless, all districts perceived a lower level of availability for capacity building providers within their districts. It is worth mentioning that the ignorance of people about the significance of human assets as an essential factor to improve people's livelihoods makes them pay less attention to building their capacities rather than caring about other capitals.

Financial Capital mainly covers the financial activities of the households (Income-Generating and Expenditures) as well as the business environment and the possibilities of people to establish businesses. It is worth noting that this capital assessed Remittances, Zakat, Livestock, Beekeeping, Agriculture, Dairy Industry, and Meat Industry. The most reliable income source for the majority of the interviewed households is **Livestock** and **Agriculture**, as well as **Zakat** and **Beekeeping**. In Ash Shamayatayn, **Remittances, Livestock, and Agricultural activities** are considered one of the significant sources of income. Also, in Khanfir, **Remittance, Livestock, Agriculture**, as well as **Zakat** found as the most important income sources. Still, in Serar, **Livestock, Remittances, Beekeeping, and Agriculture** are considered one of the essential sources of income, and in Al Musaymir, **Zakat, Livestock and Agriculture** are regarded as a crucial source of income. It is worth mentioning that in Ash Shamayatayn, Khanfir, and Serar, interviewed households believed that Microfinance activities considered an essential source for improving income sources, unlike households of Al Musaymir. Moreover, it is worth mentioning that the majority of the respondents in Ash Shamayatayn, Khanfir, and Al Musaymir live with less than **USD 6**, while Serar respondents considered less vulnerable compared to the other districts.

Definition of Terms ¹

Resilience

The capacity to adapt to, cope with, and recover from shocks and stresses and, in the process, transform to be better able to deal with future shocks and stresses.

Livelihoods

Livelihoods are the activities (jobs and businesses), assets (human, social, physical, natural, and financial capitals), and the essential services which people use to make their living.

Human Capital

According to the Sustainable Livelihood Approach (SLA), "Human Capital represents the skills, knowledge, ability to labor and good health that together enable people to pursue different livelihood strategies and achieve their livelihood objectives." Human capital must be seen as a keystone within the SLA, for the reason that the other capitals are, at the least, partly based on Human Capital as an essential requirement. Especially for rural, resource-dependent people, the assessment of this capital implicates difficulties; for example, indigenous knowledge is difficult to evaluate.

Social Capital

Conforming to the SLA Social Capital implicates social resources, "including informal networks, membership of formalized groups, and relationships of trust that facilitate cooperation." The social class of the stakeholder often determines the nature of social capital, often influenced by gender, age, and caste. The inclusion of stakeholders into a network or group implicates the exclusion of others, which can result in interference of development. The high local value of the Social Capital derives of its capacity of compensating calamities or shortage of other capitals. However, not only the potential of communal solidarity represents the high local value of this capital, and it indicates a durable connection between social capital and poverty. For example, the involvement in village organizations can lead to an enhancement of income.

¹ Krug, J. L. (2013, July). Livelihood Assessment. Hamburg, Germany.

Physical Capital

Physical Capital is a measure of the existence of physical requirements needed to support the livelihood, mainly physical infrastructure. The role of this asset can be seen in the context of opportunity costs, as an existing accessible infrastructure releases either labor or provides time as a resource, for example, education. Physical capital includes telecommunications infrastructure, roads, buildings, both private housing and community facilities, including health, education, and security.

Natural Capital

Natural Capital encompasses the assets generally provided by nature, such as air, land, rivers, forests, trees, pastures, oceans. It provides the base on which most livelihoods are built in rural areas. It is stressed by nurtured and highlighted by natural hazards, such as flood, fire, earthquake, and drought.

Financial Capital

Financial Capital can be accumulated from two different sources: one source is represented by available stock in the form of cash or equivalent available assets like livestock, the other source is characterized by the external inflow of money which originates labor income, pensions, remittances, or other types of financial liabilities. Within the five capitals, Financial Capital enables people to adapt to different livelihood strategies. It sets the precondition for the creation or improvement of the other capitals.

1. Background

The three years (March 2019-February 2022) joint program "Supporting Resilient Livelihoods and Food Security in Yemen joint program (ERRY II)" financed by EU, will be implemented by FAO, ILO, UNDP, and WFP in six vulnerable governorates: Hajjah, Hodeida, Lahj, Abyan, Taiz, and Sana'a. The overall objective of the program is to contribute to reduce vulnerability and strengthen the resilience capacity of crisis-affected communities in Yemen through the creation of sustainable livelihoods and access to essential services. The specific objective (Outcome) of the program: Crisis-affected communities are better able to manage local risks and shocks for increased resilience and self-reliance. The joint program is expected to achieve the following results over the implementation timeframe:

- **Output 1.** Community livelihoods, productive assets, and food security are improved to strengthen resilience and self-reliance;
- **Output2.** Vulnerable communities benefited from solar energy for sustainable livelihoods opportunities and enhanced social service delivery; and
- **Output 3.** Communities and local authorities enhanced capacities to respond to conflict and gender-sensitive priorities needs.

The widespread conflict has impacted both urban and rural livelihoods. Over 78 percent of households are in a worse economic situation compared to the pre-crisis period. As 2.5 million people have lost their income (IDPs, social welfare fund are suspended, private companies are almost closed), no paid government salaries for delivery of critical services (i.e., health, education, water, etc.), and physical access to markets is especially difficult in the highly conflict-affected governorates. An estimated 8 million Yemenis have lost their livelihoods. The conflict has pushed more people into poverty, sharply reduced economic activity, and gravely diminished people's self-reliance and livelihoods. A survey conducted by ILO on employment and labor market, and joint SMEPS and UNDP assessment on the impact of the conflict on Yemeni SMEs (2016) revealed that the manufacturing sector laid off about 40 percent of full-time and 38 percent of part-time employees, leading to a loss of 132,000 jobs. As a result, 12% of household heads reported a loss of their primary source of income. Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) decreased their economic activities by 80–90 percent, leading to a similar percentage of jobs lost. This situation has resulted in the widespread disruption of economic activity, loss of livelihoods, income, and employment, and a deteriorating macroeconomic environment. High level of unemployment among the vulnerable youth and excluded groups represents a waste of potential human resources and talent that is vital for rejuvenating the labor force.

The energy supply in Yemen is minimal nationwide in general. In rural areas, the increasing demand for energy and the limited availability of fuel is among the top challenges' that communities face. The total generation capacity of the Yemeni electricity system before the crisis was about 1.223 GW. The supply gap against demand was estimated at 500 MW in 2013. Damage to the energy sector since the crisis has caused energy levels to drop more than 50 percent, which in turn has affected health, education, employment, water, solid waste management, and private sectors, as well as vulnerable households, women, and the poor. Rates of using fuelwood have increased rapidly, causing adverse environmental as well as economic impacts. As per the socio-economic and rural energy gaps and needs assessments, the findings have indicated that about 80 percent of households had been affected by interruption or cessation of energy, affecting home-run businesses (tailoring, small stores, handloom textile, and handicrafts), as electricity plays a pivotal role in the development and profitability of these types of businesses. Delivery of social services has been impacted: 50 percent of health facilities lack reliable energy sources, which affects health service delivery, especially vaccinations. Also, 74 percent of education facilities lack energy sources.

Moreover, women in most areas experience energy poverty differently and more severely than men. Without access to reliable energy sources, women and girls spend most of their day performing basic subsistence tasks, which constrains them from accessing decent wage employment, educational opportunities, and livelihood enhancing options, as well as limits social and political interaction outside the household. In contrast, access to reliable and sustainable energy can significantly improve women's empowerment by reducing labor burdens, improving their health, and providing them with opportunities for enterprise, income generation, and capacity building.

The conflict is rapidly pushing the country towards social, economic, and institutional collapse. Salary payments for public sector employees have been severely disrupted due to funding constraints and the unprecedented liquidity crisis that eroded the capacity of the Central Bank of Yemen (CBY). As a result, livelihoods of over a quarter of the population, depending on government salaries, have been further deteriorated. Moreover, imports are gravely affected by the lack of foreign currencies and continued depreciation of Yemen Riyal (YER) against the US Dollar (USD). Severe access restrictions imposed by the warring parties have severely disrupted the flow of private-sector goods essential to civilians' survival, including food, fuel, and medicine. The impact on infrastructures has damaged or destroyed health facilities, schools, factories, micro, small, and medium enterprises, in addition to local authorities' office buildings and houses.

The current crisis has weakened the social contract at the local level, which can lead to potential risks for social tension and conflict among community and institutions, if not intervened to diffuse or trade-off in supporting local capacity development to resolve disputes. Social relations are being strained, and divisions are hardening at the community-level. Disputes over services, resource management, and social issues are on the rise. The conflict scan of four governorates highlights that the majority of local conflicts are related to access to education, health facilities, and water quickly escalate due to the presence of a vacuum of referral services for legal help and justice, and formal conflict resolution mechanisms. Protracted crises and conflict are altering the social norms and challenging the aid delivery and service provisions. Conflicts between IDPs and host households tend to be more on the inheritance of the expanded households (housing, land). The high impacts also indicate to crucial messages that in crisis context like Yemen, humanitarian and protracted needs should be looked at from the conflict lens. Evidence from small-medium rehabilitation of critical facilities has indicated that lack of conflict sensitivity

approach has landed the interventions into conflict and collapse of the programming. Therefore, a conflict lens must be applied in all such interventions.

To build the resilience of the affected communities in the protracted crisis, the Enhanced Rural Resilience in Yemen (ERRY), since its inception, has focused on service delivery, jobs, and employment creation and enhancement of productive assets and capacities. From 2016-19, efforts were made to build the local capacity to make communities self-reliant, and thus prevent them from falling into the vulnerability cycle of the crisis. Furthermore, evidence shows that affected districts have managed to revitalize small scale service delivery, continued to have a minimum income, and strengthen cohesion among displaced, returnees, refugees, and host communities. The second phase of ERRY would focus on building further the local capacity of affected people and institutions. Therefore, it is essential to have a Baseline to understand the magnitude of vulnerabilities (social, physical, natural, economic, and financial) and characteristics of households and individuals who would be targeted through multiple interventions. The Baseline would also provide the basis for monitoring households and individuals during project implementation. At the end of the project, the Baseline would be compared with the end line to draw inferences on impact statements.

2. Literature Review

Sustainable Livelihood Analysis (SLA) is an approach adopted in the 1990s by essential international organizations that aim to improve the capabilities of vulnerable people within communities. The SLA approach tackles the issues that occurred with definite capitals that are related to people's livelihood. These capitals are: 1) Social Capital, 2) Human Capital, 3) Natural Capital, 4) Physical Capital, and 5) Financial Capital, yet such approach has questioned its effectiveness in enhancing people's livelihood.

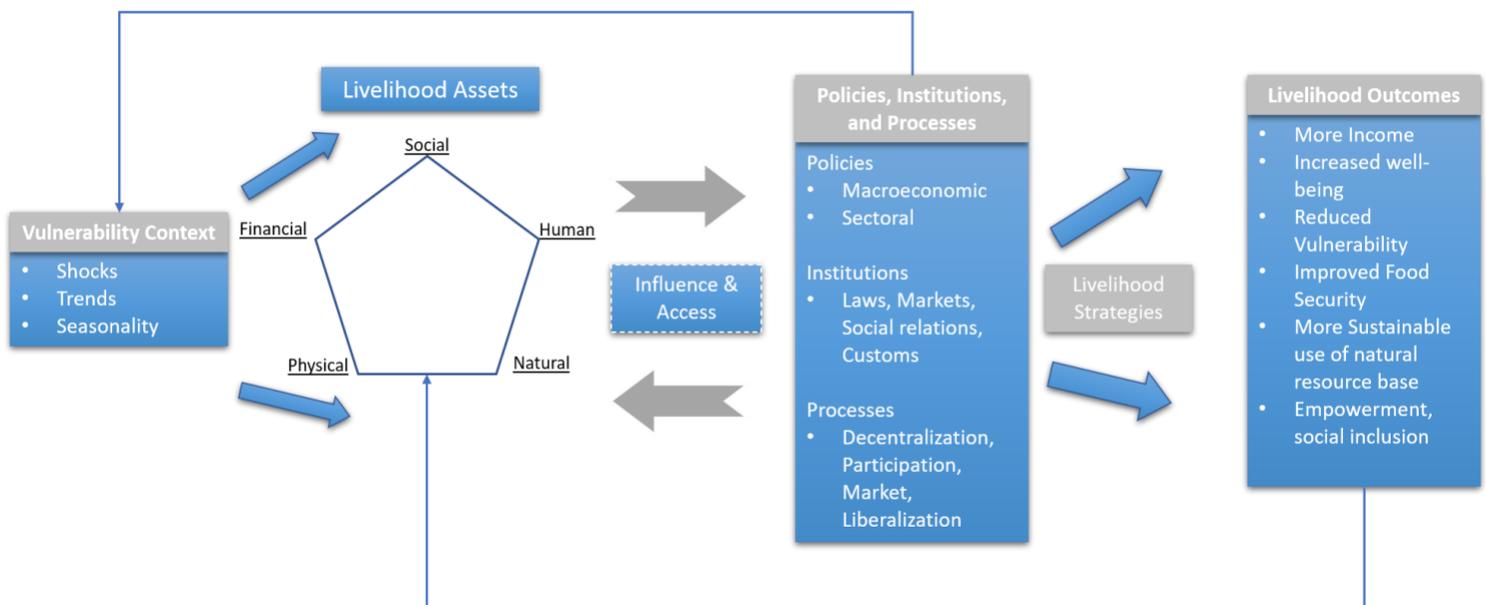


Figure 1 SLA Chart

Many studies had searched the impact of capitals on the livelihood status. The insights regarding the livelihood capitals were varied. A study about rural livelihood change found that the availability of household labor, access to cultivated land, and livestock ownership hinder the decisions about livelihood transition to influence livelihood change. However, the availability of non-farm households within the community has a significant favorable influence on the livelihood transition of farming households (Bhandari, 2013, p. 126). Another study about the Sensitivity of Livelihood Strategy to Livelihood Capital in Mountain Areas concluded that the limitations toward capitals are considered as a challenge faced by households in mountain areas. However, it found that natural and human capitals have a noticeable positive impact on farm livelihood strategies.

In contrast, Financial and Social Capitals have a positive impact on non-farm households. Also, the study concluded that Financial and Social Capitals are contributing significantly to off-farm activities for non-farm households (Fanga, Fan, Shen, & Song, 2013). In the same context, a study about the "Relationship between Social Capital and Livelihood Enhancing Capitals" resulted that Social Capital supports learning through interaction. Also, Social Capital plays an essential role in fostering the social networks and information exchange needed to achieve collective actions and in sustaining a social and institutional environment. It also suggested that solidarity of Social Capital is a powerful way to improve communities (Annet Abenakyo, 2007, p. 539).

Regarding the conflict, some studies found that disputes and civil wars have a significant but moderate influence on GDP per capita. Nonetheless, disputes may lead to a change in the behavior of people and governments, and that may be a positive or negative change (Seonjou Kang, February 2005, pp. 88-109). Another study that assessed the Poverty Dynamics, Violent Conflict, and Convergence in Rwanda during the period 1990-2000 resulted that the labor/land and labor/capital ratios at the district level changed significantly during that period. Previously more prosperous provinces in the east and the north of the country experienced lower, even harmful, economic growth compared to the poorer western and southern provinces. Also, the study concluded that those who lose their houses or lands were most risked to fail in poverty, but not the same effect indicated for the loss of household labor. However, such an effect depends on the violent or non-violent nature of loss (Justino & Verwimp, 2008, p. 39). Also, a study about the impact of conflict and fragility on households resulted in two main findings. First, the mass violent conflict is expected to have a substantial effect on household boundaries, activities, intra-household relations, and gender roles that may expressively transform the core roles of households. Second, conflict may destruct production inputs that limit the choices of income-generating activities of households (Brück & Schindler, 2008, p. 12).

It is noteworthy that the livelihood capitals are interrelated that affect each other. In this regard, a study about "Rural Livelihoods and Access to Natural Capital" concluded that Human Capital, for instance, is likely to be a function of Financial Capital as prosperous individuals can afford higher education. In return, higher educational achievement could provide better job opportunities with higher incomes that might be used to get better physical assets, which may lead to reducing the required labor inputs. Also, it concluded that the urban-to-rural migrants might benefit excessively from accessing natural resources and might be able to transform such benefits into human capital (Nawrotzki, Hunter, & Dickinson, 2012). On the other hand, a study about "Collective Influence of Household and Community Capitals on Agricultural Employment." concluded that lack of access to human, Financial and Social Capital at the household level increases the levels of precarious agricultural employment. Also, the lack of access to capitals mentioned above on the household level increases the levels of precarious agrarian work, such as daily-wage agricultural labor (Berchoux, Watmough, Johnson, Hutton, & Atkinson, 2019).

Livelihood capitals have a positive impact on improving the socio-economic conditions for small entrepreneurs. A study about "Impact of Small Entrepreneurship on Sustainable Livelihood Assets of Rural Poor Women in Bangladesh" demonstrated that the livestock and poultry activities are significantly associated with Financial, Physical, And Social capital. At the same time, vegetable entrepreneurship has

a significant relationship with Natural and Physical Capital. Also, fisheries activities have a significant and positive correlation with Human Capital. Moreover, entrepreneurs have shown that they benefited the most from the micro-credit and training program provided to them by NGOs, which impacted positively on entrepreneurs' livelihood patterns and developed living standards. However, the inadequate livelihood assets, vulnerabilities, and weak transforming structures and processes are considered constraints for sustainable livelihoods before entrepreneurs (M.S. Kabir, 2012, p. 274).

The Sustainable Livelihood Approach (SLA) is considered a practical approach for improving households' socio-economic conditions, yet livelihood capitals may be varied from a community to another. Livelihood capitals are interrelated with each other, which makes it difficult to pay attention to capital without considering the other ones. Moreover, tackling the livelihood risks should be associated with the improvement of household capabilities, which would be achieved by focusing on enhancing the livelihood capitals in total. Such efforts would be adequate to be headed with the cooperation of local governments in a way to reach maximum benefit on the local level (Su, Saikia, & Hay, 2018, p. 17).

3. Study Design

1. Baseline Objective

The overall objective of the Baseline study is to understand the livelihoods situation of people in terms of the five capitals (Social, Physical, Natural, Human, And Financial) among the targeted communities, households, and individuals. The Baseline would develop common resilience indicators for five capitals under which UNDP is implementing three outputs and review the current situation as well as recommend and suggest essential support needed to be provided to the targets for measuring resilience indicators throughout the project period. Outcome indicators will also be developed and indicated for use as required, although it is not expected that outcomes can be fully achieved just by the interventions of ERRY2.

2. Baseline Scope

Geographic Scope of Work

This Baseline report is produced to demonstrate the capital situation in the three governorates (Taiz, Lahj, and Abyan). The total number of the households in the targeted districts, according to the 2004 Census is 54967, distributed as follows:

	District	# of household	
Abyan	Khanfir	16137	Al Kod Center
			Abr Othman Center
	Serar	2363	Serar Center
			Qared Center
Lahj	Al Musaymir	4097	Jul Mudaram Center
			Mukidum Center
Taiz	Ash Shamayatayn	25587	Al Asabeh
			Al Aza'ez ²

3. Time

It is worth highlighting that the data collection started in December 2019, and analysis started in February 2020, where COVID arrives.

² Yemen National Information center: <https://yemen-nic.info/gover/apyan/brife/>

4. Methodology

Work Approaches

Both quantitative and qualitative methods were followed to collect data from the field. The quantitative approach is mainly used at the households' level for assessing the five capitals (Social, Human, Natural, Physical, And Financial). In contrast, the qualitative method mainly evaluated the opinions of the individuals (Business Owners and Key Informants) on the sub-district level. The targeted five capitals were assessed from three different points of view, namely: livelihood status of people in the targeted communities through the household survey, business environment opportunities, challenges through the FGDs, and official statistics and capacities using the KIIs.

It is worth mentioning that a gender profile was developed by conducting the assessment to understand the status of both males and females within each capital. In another context, it is planned by UNDP to provide interventions for the targeted sample size of this assessment; therefore, the sample size was selected purposefully for 60% of the low- and marginalized-income households and 40% was randomly for the high and medium-income households. We recruited in advance local coordinators and sought help from social networks in each sub-district to list the low income and marginalized households in each area. Moreover, the baseline study was conducted in four districts of Abyan, Lahj, and Taiz governorates on a sub-district level.

It is worth noting that a semi-structured survey was used as a tool besides a mapping form tool to collect data for the quantitative approach. For the survey, a digital platform (**Kobotoolbox**) was used to collect the data. At the same time, for the qualitative approach, the followed tools were applied conducted 1) Desk Review, 2) Key Informant Interviews with the local council and community leaders, and 3) Focus Group Discussions with business owners and farmers.

5. Data Collection Sampling Methods

Sampling Method

In the Term of Reference of this assignment, it was required to collect 604 samples from the targeted districts, Taiz (Ash Shamayatayn, Abyan, and Lahj). Nonetheless, we raised the number to 636 samples for a quantitative approach by applying the sampling formula with a confidence level of 95% and a margin error of 4%. For qualitative sampling, we followed the purposeful sampling technique to assure collecting data from the most related samples, which have more information and knowledge about the Baseline objective. Thus, we conducted two in-depth interviews in each sub-district with (local council and community leader). Also, we held one focus group discussion on the district level with business owners related to targeted sectors for the ERRY program occurred from the impact study conducted in February 2019, such as (Tailoring, Beekeeping, Meet and Dairy Industry, etc.) to understand perspectives about the five targeted capitals (Social, Natural, Human, Physical, and Financial). Furthermore, regarding mapping the delivered services in each sub-district, we interviewed (Education Office, Water Supply Office, Energy Office, and Health Office). The tables below demonstrate the sample size for quantitative and qualitative approaches.

$$\text{Sample Size} = \frac{z^2 \times p(1-p)}{e^2} \div \left(1 + \left(\frac{z^2 \times p(1-p)}{e^2 N} \right) \right)$$

Sample Size

Household Questionnaire

Governorate	District	Planned Sample size	Actual Sample size
Abyan	Khanfir	187	196
	Serar	60	63
Lahj	Al Musaymir	60	69
Taiz	Ash Shamayatayn	297	308
Total			636

FGDs

District	# of FGDs	Notes
Khanfir	1	Each session included 12 business owners from the sub-districts
Serar	1	
Al Musaymir	1	
Ash Shamayatayn	1	

Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)

District	Community Leader	Local Council
Khanfir	2	2
Serar	2	2
Al Musaymir	2	2
Ash Shamayatayn	2	2

Study Results

4. Household Profile

4.1. Gender Distribution

Over the four targeted districts, the interviewees were 71% males and 29% females, as shown in Figure 2. Moreover, as shown in Figure 1, 18% of the total households interviewed were female-headed households, and the most female-headed households were encountered in Ash Shamayatayn District, with 26% out of the total respondents.

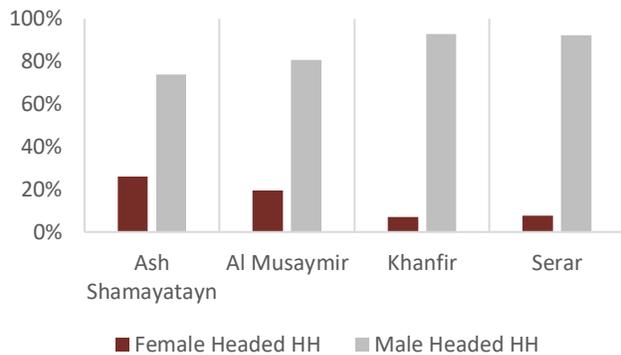


Figure 3 Household Head

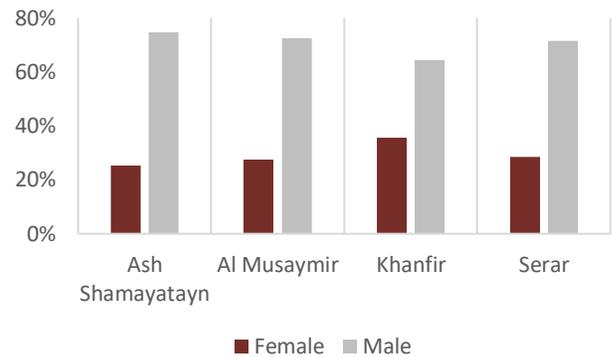


Figure 3 Gender Distribution

4.2. Number of Family Members

As demonstrated in Figure 4, the average family had seven members within each household. The number of family members within each household is less than seven members according to 51% of the total

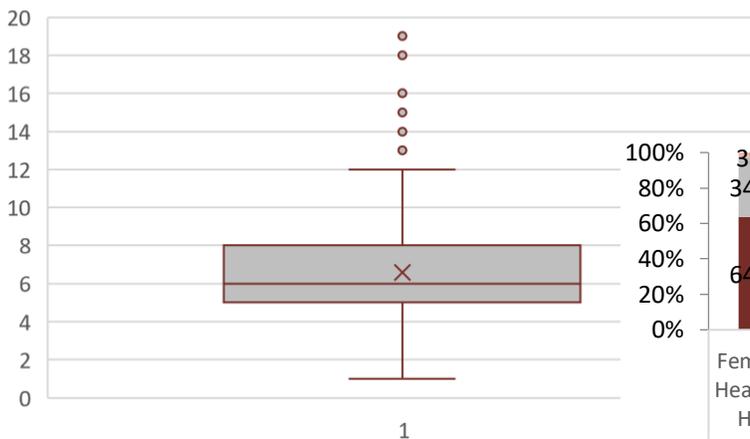


Figure 5 Family Members Average

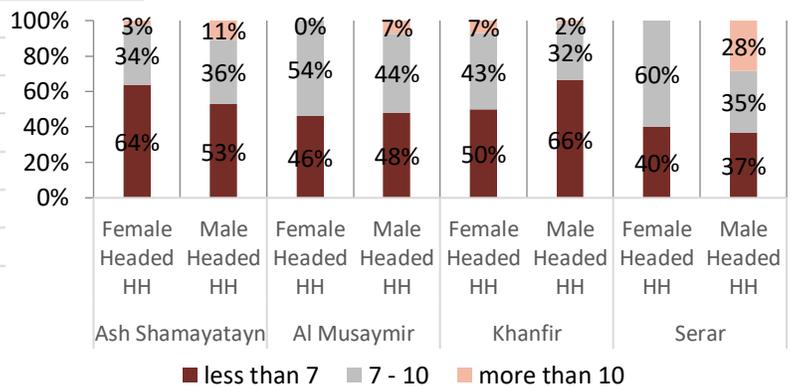
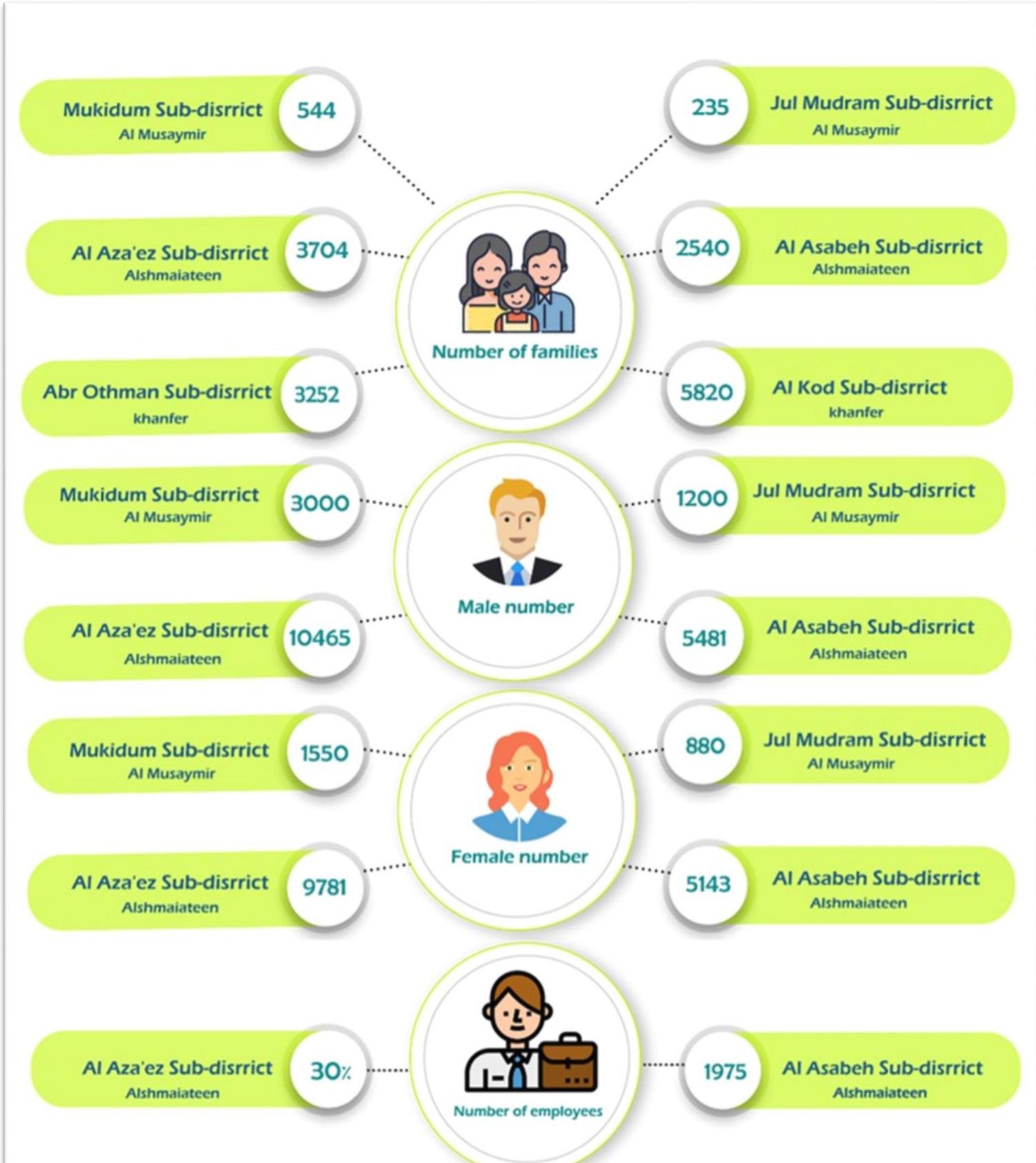


Figure 4 Number of Family Members

number of respondents, while the range of family members within each household is between seven to ten according to 42%

of the total number of interviewed respondents, and only 7% out of the total respondents' number reported that their family members are more than ten individuals as indicated in Figure 3.

Figure 6 Map of Estimated Households in the Targeted Districts



5. Social Capital

Social Capital is one of five capitals that is related to social cohesion and levels of trust prevailing in a society. This capital reflects the efforts and relationships of societies to develop and resolve their challenges and conflicts. This section sheds light on the social entities formed by local communities as a social cohesion tool that citizens rely on to manage their regular lives and conflicts within their local communities. Also, assessing the efforts of Social Figures and CSOs within the communities to deal with the local communities' conflicts. Besides, this section assesses the neighborhood, cohesion, resource management, citizen participation in the developmental projects, and the relationship between host communities, IDPs, and returnees.

5.1. Capital Status

Social Capital surveyed five groups that are related to citizens' engagement in society. They are the community committees, the parents' councils, the village councils, CSOs, and Social Figures.

In Ash Shamayatayn, as the same as Khanfir districts, there is equal importance of social networks among community members. However, the availability is more for the village council and community committees and Social Figures. Ash Shamayatayn district is considered closer to urban than rural, where people tend to interact with organized institutions or networks rather than individuals to overcome their issues. In contrast, Al-Musaymir district community members lean more to rely on Social Figures rather than formal or informal organized institutions or networks as the community structure of Al-Musaymir is more tribalism instead of being institutionalized.

On the other hand, Serar district community members believe in the equal importance of the social network, yet the availability is for Social Figures and parents council, which they rely on to treat with their

disputes and issues. Serar, as same as Al- Musaymir community structure, is more tribalism that they lean to social figure to help in overcoming their problems.

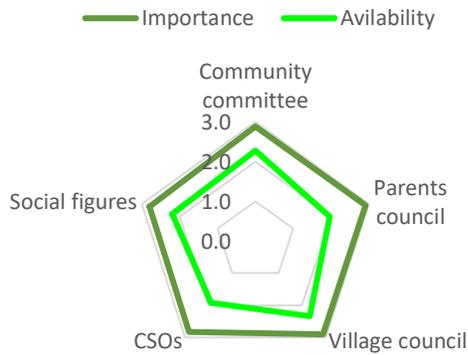


Figure 10 Social Capital Importance & Availability- Ash Shamayatayn

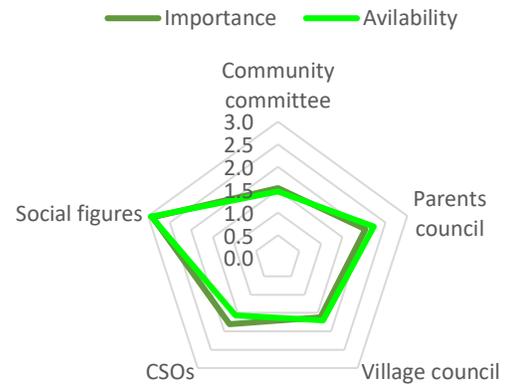


Figure 10 Social Capital Importance & Availability- Al Musaymir

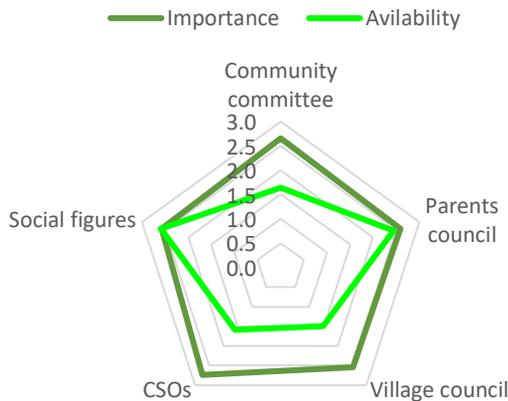


Figure 8 Social Capital Importance & Availability- Serar

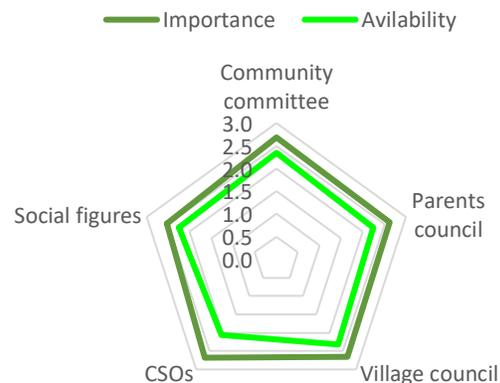


Figure 8 Social Capital Importance & Availability- Khanfir

The community networks in the targeted districts, such as 1) Community Committee, 2) Parents Council, 3) Village Council, 4) CSOs, and 5) Social Figures, are considered essential for local communities regarding the resolution of their issues and planning for their needs, yet there is a weak availability of such networks in the targeted districts. In contrast, in Al Musaymir District, Social Figures are considered the most crucial asset that local community members rely the most on to resolve their problems. The results showed high importance for the networks mentioned above as the average of the received answers was 2.6 out of 3. However, local community members in Al Musaymir District- Lahj, gave more importance for Social Figures rather than other networks. On the other hand, the results demonstrated moderate availability for the networks mentioned above as the average of received answers was 2 out of 3.

5.2. Community Engagement

In the same context, the responses gathered from the Baseline demonstrated a high vulnerability of community engagement for the respondents within the community networks as well as in the project management committees. It is reported by 95% of the respondents of Ash Shamayatayn that they are not members in project committees in their district, as same as 91% of Serar respondents reported that they are not members in any of the project committees within their community. Likewise, the respondents of Khanfir and Al Musaymir districts reported that they are not members of any project committees within their district, according to 89% and 81% of respondents, respectively.

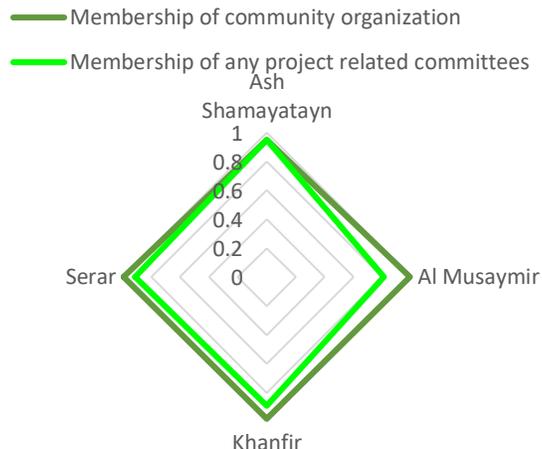


Figure 11 Community Engagement

Furthermore, 95% of Ash Shamayatayn respondents reported that they are not members of any community groups or committees, along with 99% of Serar and Al Musaymir districts and 98% of Khanfir District.

There is a high vulnerability among local community members regarding their involvement in Community Networks or even in participating in development projects within their districts as the results expressed a high vulnerability (98%) of local community members within all targeted districts regarding their involvement or being members in one of the community networks within their community. Also, the results revealed a high vulnerability (89%) of the local community members within all targeted districts regarding their involvement in the development projects within their communities. The vulnerable engagement of community members creates resistance and lack of acceptance of any provided interventions as they do not feel the ownership of it as they were not part of the process.

5.3. Community Networks

This Baseline assessed the availability and effectiveness of social networks within targeted districts; also, the formation process of each network. The table below demonstrates the availability of each network in the targeted districts.

District	Parent councils	Local councils	Villages / Neighborhoods councils	Community committees	Public figures (Sheikhs, Aqil Al Harah & Religious leaders, etc..)	Local associations	Youth initiatives
Ash Shamayatayn	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Al Musaymir	✓	✓		✓	✓		
Khanfir	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Serar	✓		✓				✓

Table 1 Social networks

The social networks in Ash Shamayatayn consisted of three main active entities, the parent's councils, the village councils, which were formed by the social fund for development-SFD, and the local community committees. Also, there are provincial associations, such as the Al Asabeh Association that is active in community development. The village councils were trained by SFD to prepare a development reports for each village; these development reports are statistical reports for everything within the village; however, the comprehensive report was issued in 2015 and needed to be updated. On the other hand, the community committees performed a discussion session to identify their local community needs, yet they only conducted a field survey to identify educational sector needs. Also, local councils make a registration process for IDPs and people in need to prepare lists for organizations, in addition to Al Asabeh association, which identifies the needs and priorities via field survey data collection. The community committees and the village councils' members were chosen based on local elections; the parents' councils, on the other hand, were formed based on recommendations.

It is worth mentioning that these entities have provided several benefits for the local community, for instance, digging and maintaining wells, paving roads, supervising INGOs assistances, orphans clothing, providing educational tools for people in need, holding summer centers to elevate education level, and resolving local community conflicts. Nonetheless, these contributions and achievements diminished recently due to a lack of support. Women actively participate in the community committees and the village councils because these entities were formed based on equal quota for males and females by local elections. However, women's role in charity and development local associations is still limited due to the traditions and norms of the local community as most of the meetings of these associations are organized in Qat sessions. The community committees and the village councils do not have fixed operational costs as they are voluntarily serving their local communities, but they receive subscription fees to cover some of the operational costs. The decision-making process for these social networks mainly relies on meetings and voting.

In Al Musaymir, there are four primary entities. The four active bodies are parent councils, local council, community committees, and village councils, which have been formed by local elections, while recommendation selections have formed the parent councils. In addition to these entities' public figures, such as tradesmen, sheikhs, and religious leaders, some of whom are active members in the community committees, also are active social groups. Regarding the decision making, it is made through meetings and voting within these entities.

The roles of these entities are somewhat similar; for instance, the local council, the community committees, and the village council are concerned with local community needs and priorities while parent councils are concerned with educational system needs. The local council members claimed to achieve several achievements for their local community, for instance, providing food assistance, accomplishing a solar-powered water network, and building a school in Aqan Village; the community committees and village councils have to monitor and supervise water projects and other issues, such as solving conflicts. These entities are self-funded except for the local council, which is governmentally funded.

According to the conducted FGD, the local council, participants do not have much popularity within the community as power holders influence their role.

"local council members are not popular; they distribute assistance based on political affiliation and to their relatives and friends."

FGD participants – Al Musaymir, Lahj

Moreover, women are not represented efficiently within these social networks. The main reasons constraining women from participating in these networks are the community norms and the lack of female education within the community.

In Khanfir, the active social networks are the local council, parent councils, community committees, neighborhood councils, youth initiatives, and public figures, such as neighbor's leader and Sheikhs.

The local council and the community committees have been formed by local elections, while the parent councils have been established through recommendations by the community members.

These entities work through several mechanisms like a suggestion box, meetings, field surveys, and need assessment forms. These social networks contributed to enhancing local livelihood through rehabilitating sanitation systems, wells, road pavement, and conflict resolution, also coordinating with NGOs to perform projects in WASH and education.

It is worth mentioning that women's participation and role inside these entities are somewhat controversial. The administrator of the technical secretary in Khanfir valued women's role and stated a high percentage of women's participation within the social networks. On the contrary, the manager of the Balqees Foundation said that women's participation is weak and negligible due to women's poor qualification as a result of lack of education as well as community norms and traditions.

"The percentage of women participation is meager; they are being neglected in the decision-making positions because they are unqualified for such positions in addition to community traditions and norms in Abyan."

Mona Ali – Teacher and Balqees foundation manager – Khanfir, Abyan

In Serar District-Abyan, the social networks are Parent councils, Youth initiatives, and Village councils. Each social network has its tasks and concerns; for example, the parent council is concerned with educational issues. In contrast, the village council is assessing the community needs and suggesting projects; also, it is concerned with conflict resolution and aid distribution. The village council was formed by the Social Fund for Development-SFD, which was authorized by local authorities to contact SFD regarding community needs and intervention recommendations. The youth initiatives are tending to help in local community development and infrastructure rehabilitation, such as road rehabilitation. It is essential to point out that the decisions about the needs of the local community in Serar are identified by conducting regular meetings and voting by these entities' members.

Women participate to some extent in some of the local committees and councils, and their role is limited to aid distribution or beneficiaries check process. Moreover, these networks formed whether through community-based elections, like the village councils, or recommendations by the community members like parent councils. These councils formed and operated voluntarily; thus, their resources and operational costs are limited, yet SFD funded some of the village's councils.

There are different roles for the community networks as, for instance, parents' councils' concern about educational matters, while community committees and villages councils concern about addressing the needs of the communities and seeking funds to cover the occurred needs and resolving their issues. The role of women considered weak or absent within these networks as they are operated mostly by men.

5.4. Neighbors Cohesion

In Ash Shamayatayn, the level of collaboration among villages and local communities is limited and only subjected to mutual benefit projects that geographically serves these communities like roads, schools, and health centers. For instance, in Al Aza'ez village, according to the local council member, there is no form of collaboration with neighbor villages because there are no beneficially shared projects. However, the last cooperative activity with the neighbor village of Al Asabeh was in 2010 when they had a water dam project located in the borders of the two villages, yet due to events eruption in 2011, the project was suspended.

In Al Musaymir district- Taiz, the KIIs feedback stated that the cooperation among villages and local communities mostly confined to solving emerged conflicts between these communities. In rare cases, collaboration occurs when there is a shared project regarding water barriers implemented by INGOs. The collaboration happens through forming a committee that includes members from both villages to solve disputes. Moreover, the distance between villages is far, and the roads are unpaved, which limit the cooperation among the villages.

In Khanfir district-Abyan, the KIIs responses reported that cooperation was initiated on a high level between local communities through INGOs, local council, and tribes via regular meetings, workshops, and group discussions to identify the local community's needs. The assistance varies in different aspects such as school bags, food baskets for kidney failure patients, which were a consequence of collaboration between the areas of Khanfir, Zanjibar, Al Wadee'a, and Modiah, besides health supplements and road pavements.

In Serar District- Abyan, the KIIs answers claimed that the neighbors' cooperation is mostly on the conflict resolution cases on a tribal level. Also, the area lacks water resources and depends only on underground water, and neighbors cooperate in providing water for their neighbors in Serar.

There is poor cooperation between neighbors' villages unless there is a common issue such as conflict on borders or water projects, roads, schools, or health centers that several neighbored villages will share.

5.5. Aid Delivery and Support for (IDPs, Women and Marginalized groups)

In Ash Shamayatayn district- Taiz, according to KIIs, there is significant support for marginalized groups and IDPs in education and shelter, as they are being exempted from education fees and supported with educational materials. Further, they receive drinking water at a lower cost than other hosting community members. It is worth mentioning that IDPs and marginalized groups are always considered a top priority regarding the aid distribution. An example of support, education support fund in Al Aza'ez village is

monthly funding the enrollment of six marginalized people in the university with one of them is in his fifth year at medical college. In the same context, women engaged in activities and discussions covering subjects such as early marriage, community engagement, and children's health and education.

The host community in Ash Shamayatayn accept IDPs and are willing to support people in need; however, there are some difficulties in IDPs housing as most of the owners of the house depends on houses rents as a primary source of income; thus, it is sometimes difficult to accept lower renting rates to accommodate IDPs.

"There are cases where host community members share their packages of received aids with their neighbors despite being in need because of his neighbor in need more than him."

Nashwan Abdulsalam – Local council member – Ash Shamayatayn, Taiz

According to a community committee member and local council member in Al Aza'ez Village in Ash Shamayatayn, the IDPs in their village ranges between 600 – 700 IDPs, most of them from Al Hudaydah in addition to IDPs from Aden and Taiz. In contrast, in Al Asabeh Village, according to the head of Al Asabeh villages council, there are more than 500 IDPs, most of them are from Al Hudaydah.

In Al Musaymir District- Lahj, according to KIIs, the aids distribution process is directed to IDPs, women, and marginalized groups who are given the priority as beneficiaries. The host community accepts these groups and support them in finding shelter, food, and water.

"The host community accept these groups and support them to a moderate extent due to weak financial capabilities; citizens support these groups by providing residence and water."

Ameen Muhammed – Local council member – Al Musaymir, Lahj

In Khanfir and Serar districts- Abyan, IDPs, women, and marginalized groups are the focus of INGOs' assistance. In Khanfir, the groups mentioned above are participating in many phases of projects beginning with the need assessment survey by evaluating their actual needs to project administration, implementation, and evaluation as well as being direct beneficiaries of such projects. In contrast, in Serar, IDPs, women, and marginalized groups are being considered as beneficiaries only. Usually, the assistance they receive is a combination of food, shelter, and medicine. The IDPs in Serar, according to the head of the district general manager office, are 300 IDPs from Aden and Abyan.

The host communities' accept and provide support for IDPs as well as for marginalized groups; they also put them on the top priority regarding providing humanitarian support or aids, such food baskets, health services, and Education, yet the provided support is insufficient as the financial abilities to host communities are inadequate.

5.6. Ability to influence community and external support

Regarding the ability of the interviewed household to influencing the community support, as shown in Figure 13, only 9% of interviewed households reported themselves as members at one of the community entities or networks at their district. In Ash Shamayatayn district- Taiz, the respondents who were members at one of the community networks were 12% of the total respondents, which is higher than the respondents in the Khanfir 8% out of the total respondents in Khanfir, while Al Musaymir was 6%, and Serar was 4%. Also, women's participation only existed in Ash Shamayatayn District compared to other targeted districts.

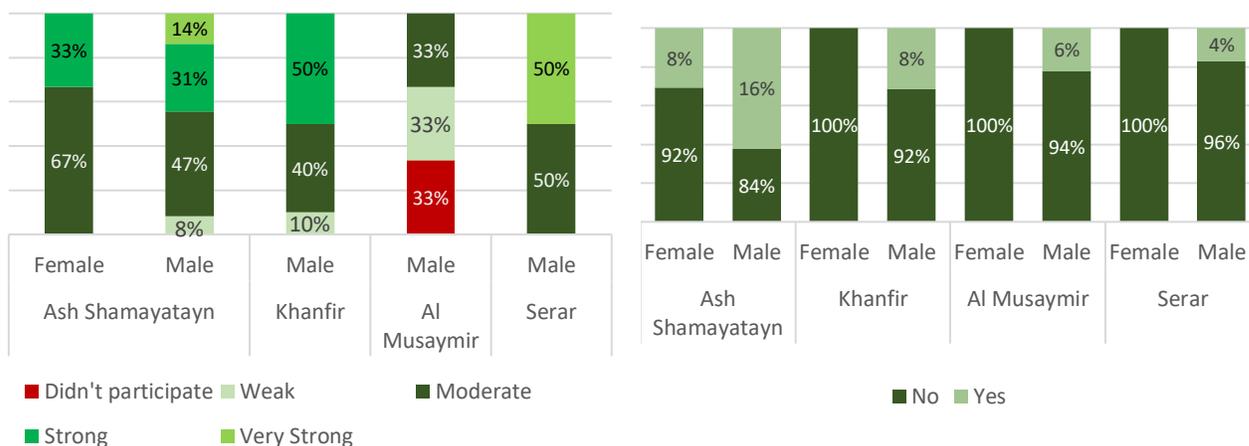


Figure 13 Level of participation & influence regarding support

Figure 13 Community entity membership

In the same context, as demonstrated in Figure 11, the respondents reported that they influenced the support provided within their districts. In Ash Shamayatayn District- Taiz, 57% of respondents reported moderate influence on the support within their community, 32% reported a strong effect, and 14% reported powerful influence. Likewise, in Khanfir District-Abyan, 50% of respondents reported a strong effect, and 40% reported a moderate effect. Also, in Serar District-Abyan, 50% of respondents claimed that they have a moderate influence on the support within their community, and the other 50% reported powerful influence. In contrast, in Al Musaymir District-Lahj, 33% of respondents reported moderate influence, 33% reported weak influence, and 33% reported no influence on support within their community.

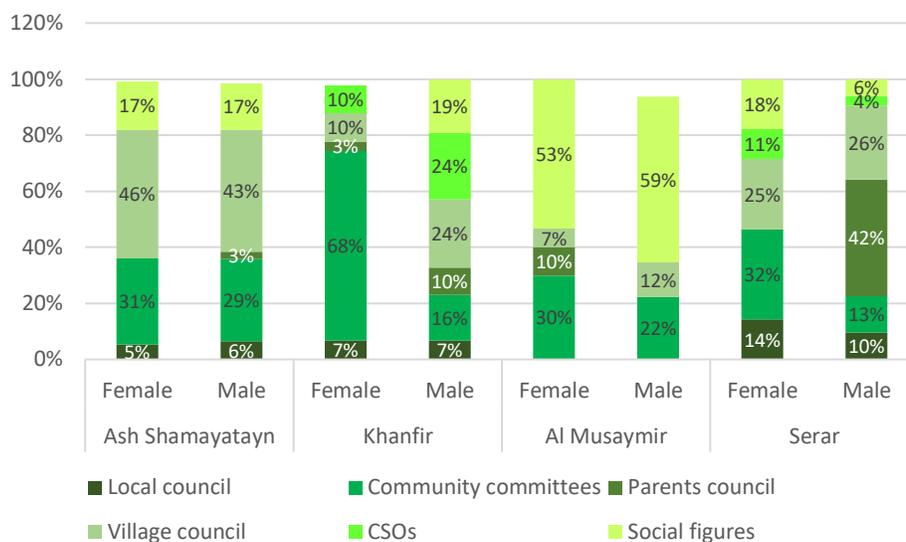


Figure 14 Most influencers in decision making regarding support and assistances

As shown in Figure 13, overall responses indicated Sheikhs as the most influential figures according to 27%, followed by Social Figures according to 21%, and community committees according to 20% of the total respondents. According to 28% of respondents in Ash Shamayatayn- Taiz, village councils are considered most influential than other networks and figures, followed by community committees, according to 24% of respondents. Also, Sheikhs found as influencers on the support according to 22% of respondents, and Social Figures according to 16% of respondents. In Khanfir district- Abyan, the community committee is considered the most influential according to 35% of respondents, followed by Sheikhs according to 20% of respondents, Masjids Imams according to 15% of respondents, Social Figures according to 11% of respondents, and village council according to 10% of respondents. In contrast, Al Musaymir District-Lahj, 32% of respondents stated that Social Figures are the most influential on community support, followed by sheikhs, according to 26% of respondents, and community committees, according to 18% of respondents, while in Serar District-Abyan, 40% of respondents indicated sheikhs as the most influential, followed by Social Figures according to 22% of respondents, and parents council according to 11% of respondents.

The households in the targeted communities do not have the opportunity to influence decision making as the majority did not represent one of the community networks. Only a small portion of the households represented one of the community networks have a moderate influence on decision making. Community Committees, Sheikhs, and Social Figures within the targeted communities are the most influencers on the decision-making regarding interventions and projects that aim to respond to the need of the local communities as the results showed that only 9% of the total respondents who are members in one of the Community Networks within their community, and 59% of them stated that they have a moderate influence on decision making. Also, the results demonstrated that Community Committees, Sheikhs, and Social Figures are considered the most influencers in the decision making according to 69% of respondents from all targeted districts.

5.7. Aid Management Mechanisms

Regarding the support and aid management mechanisms, as shown in Figure 14, in Ash Shamayatayn District-Abyan, 36% of respondents stated that the village councils are the primary entity managing the aid and assistance provided to the community, followed by community committee according to 30% of respondents, and Social Figures according to 17% of respondents. In contrast, in Al Musaymir District-Lahj, 56% of respondents stated the Social Figures of the area as the main actor who manages aids in the community, followed by the community committee, according to 26% of respondents.

Additionally, in Khanfir District-Abyan, 42% of respondents stated that the community committee is the primary entity that manages aids, followed by CSOs, according to 17% of respondents, and the village council, according to 14% of respondents. In contrast, in Serar District-Abyan, 23% of respondents consider the community committee as a primary body who manages aids, followed by parents' council according to 21% of respondents, and the village council, according to 26% of respondents.

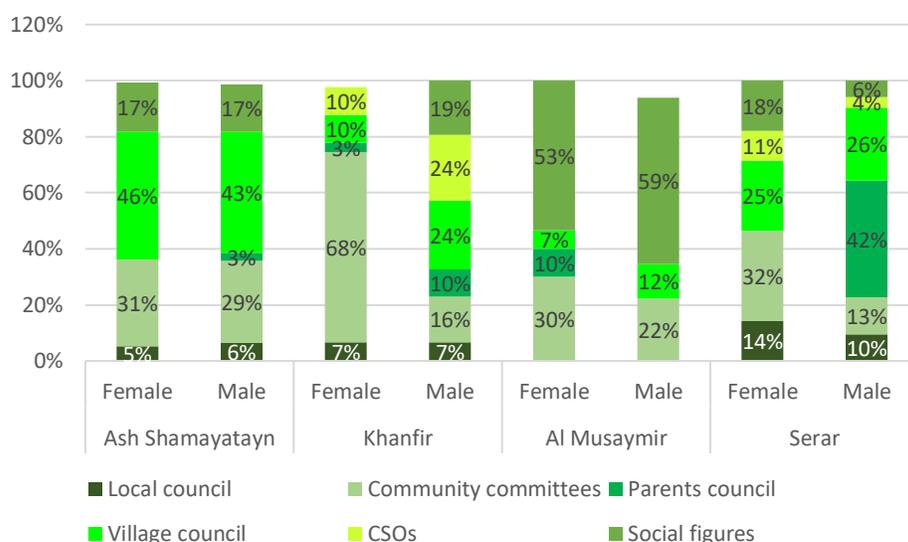


Figure 15 Support management mechanisms

The aids are concluded to be managed and distributed by three main community networks 1) Community Committee, 2) Village Council, and 3) Social Figures. As the results revealed that Community Committees manage and distribute the received aids according to 30% of the total respondents. Also, Village Councils and Social Figures, according to 24% of the total respondents, are managing and distributing the received aids to the vulnerable groups.

5.8. Women and men leadership role in Resources Mobilization

According to KIIs feedback, there are different roles of men and women regarding resource mobilization. In Ash Shamayatayn, women and men play a vivid role in preparing for and raising awareness about any upcoming activities as they develop, supervise, and organize the process. For instance, upon forming a community committee, women and men perform awareness sessions about the importance of such committees, then they prepare for the formation process, organize it, participate in the process and supervise it; they also perform a statistical survey to list IDPs. However, women usually have a restricted role due to norms and traditions; thus, they conduct awareness activities and statistical surveys with people in need and IDPs. Also, in case there is a construction project, women get assigned to light duties

such as bringing water for men on the construction site, while men participate in the need assessment process, data analysis, conflict resolution, and supervise the implementation.

On the other hand, women and men also have a significant role in resource mobilization. Women are very effective internally in mobilizing resources, especially for development projects. For example, in Al Asabeh Village- Ash Shamayatayn, there was a shortage in the fund for wells rehabilitation, which led to the project suspension. However, women made an initiative to collect donations to re-establish the rehabilitation activities. Moreover, women have some leading positions in some associations, such as Yemen Women Union, Feminist Centers, Special Needs People Centers, and Schools, which give them the responsibility and the authorization to mobilize resources for their community. Men usually take responsibility for communicating and coordinating with funding entities, such as INGOs and expatriates outside the country for resource mobilization. Also, men are generally the head of many local bodies such as community committees, village councils, local councils, and education funds, which give them more authorization and responsibility toward resource mobilization.

In Al Musaymir District-Lahj, according to KIIs interviews, men are the main element in organizing and supervising aids and assistances, as women face community restrictions due to norms and traditions. However, men are the leading players in resource mobilization, preparation beneficiaries, and needs lists, and coordinate with local authorities and organizations. The only role mentioned for women is helping in the preparation of the female beneficiaries lists.

"There is no role for women due to a lack of awareness because of norms, traditions, early marriage, and education dropping."

Muhammed Saleh Qasem – Teacher – Al Musaymir, Lahj

The resource mobilizers are usually men who are considered Social Figures, such as Masjids Imam, Sheikhs, Teachers, and neighborhood leaders, in addition to local council members.

In Khanfir District-Abyan, according to KIIs responses, both men and women play roles in mobilizing resources and administrate the assistance in the community. It is worth mentioning that women, through local initiatives, such as relief initiatives during emergencies and war, provide shelters and advocate prisoner mothers. Also, local CSOs run by women perform assessment field surveys, IDPs listing, and aids distribution. These roles are done in a partnership and collaboration with men as well. Also, resource mobilization is usually accomplished by women through conducting studies of needs assessment and write proposals then submit them to INGOs for support and fund. Also, men play a supportive role in resource mobilization through their position in the local council or governmental administrations. The active resource mobilizers in Khanfir are mostly local activists, youth, local authorities, local CSOs, community committees, and youth initiatives. Some of these initiatives which work in the field are: 1) With Science We Rise for School Book Collection, 2) Youth of Good for Feeding most Needed People, 3) Collecting Used Clothes Initiatives, 4) Youth of Environment Advocacy, and 5) Put Your Fingerprint to Prevent Carrying Weapons.

In Serar District- Abyan, according to KIIs feedback, women do not have a role in administrating assistance and resources due to community norms and traditions. Nonetheless, they help with awareness aimed for female community members and sometimes in donation collection from female community members. Men are responsible for receiving support, distributing, and supervising the distribution process as well as listing and following up the eligible beneficiaries. Furthermore, men mobilize the resources for their communities by identifying the community needs and coordinate with official authorities, INGOs, or tradespeople. The resource mobilizers are usually public figures, such as area sheikhs, teachers, tradespeople, and area officials.

5.9. Supporting IDPs, Refugees, and Returnees to Access Services

The local communities for the four districts had received IDPs from different areas around Yemen due to the current crisis that Yemen is going through. As shown in Figure 15, 92% of the total interviewed households expressed their community support for IDPs to access services. However, 40% of the households interviewed in Serar said that they do not receive any IDPs. Moreover, as shown in Figure 16, 86% of the interviewed households in Al Musaymir, 96% of the interviewed households in Khanfir, and 52% of the interviewed households in Serar expressed the community support for returnees to access services. Still, 97% of the households interviewed in Ash Shamayatayn, and 40% of the households interviewed in Serar stated that there are no returnees to access services within their communities.

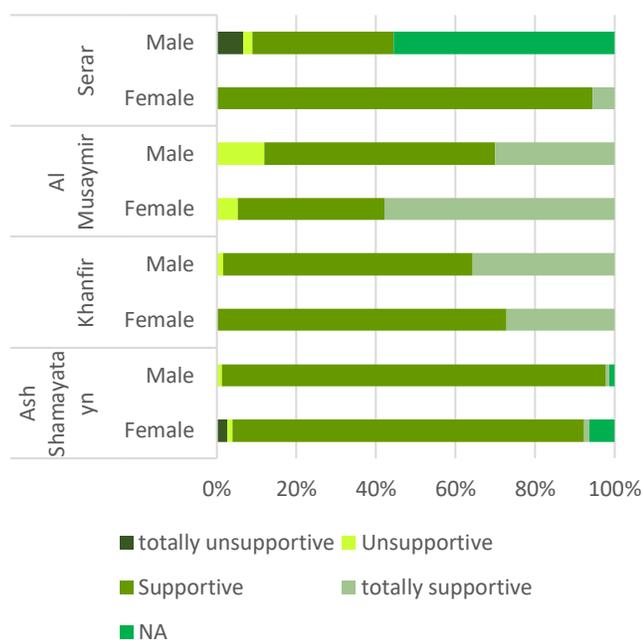


Figure 17 local community support for IDPs

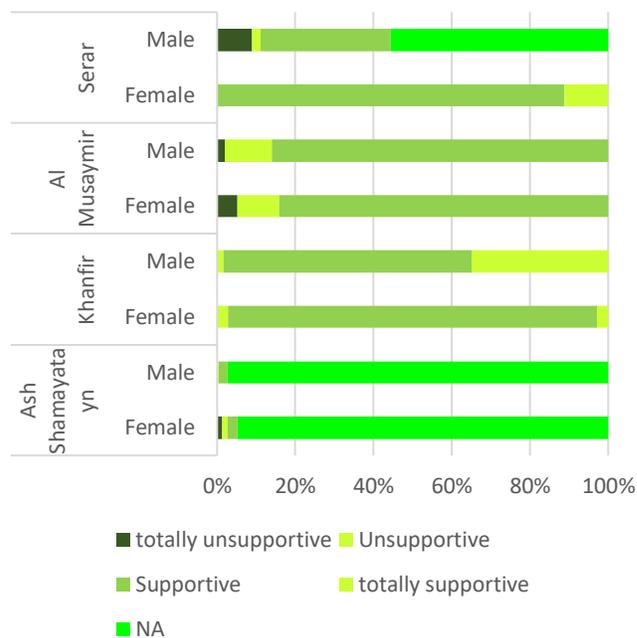


Figure 17 Local community support for returnees

5.10. Community Engagement in Projects and Interventions

According to the collected feedback, most of the Interventions done at the local community level during the current crisis concentrated on the humanitarian relief sector. In Ash Shamayatayn District- Taiz, the FGD participants had mentioned several interventions conducted in the local communities. For example, Bena'a Association had provided food baskets and cash support for local beneficiaries for three months as well as providing cash support for another six months. Furthermore, IOM used to support the

community with food baskets; however, it created more conflict due to the limited quantities compared to people in need. Nevertheless, these interventions are resented among FGD participants from Ash Shamayatayn as they prefer Cash for Work-CFW Projects alongside supporting and encouraging small businesses projects as they perceive it more productive and self-dependable for communities and individuals. For instance, Nahlah from Al Asabeh Village is a success story as she started a beekeeping project after receiving training and fund support from SPARK organization, which turned into a productive project benefiting Nahlah financially and making her economically self-independent.

In Al Musaymir District- Lahj, according to FGD participants, there are three types of interventions that they are aware of, namely: food assistance provided by WFP, water projects to connect wells into water network, solar-powered pumps, and health interventions related to Cholera Disease.

In Khanfir District- Abyan, FGD participants revealed that several interventions are targeting their communities; these interventions focused on the food security sector, WASH sector, Solar Power, and Roads Paving. However, at the time of conducting the survey, 38% of the households interviewed said that there are interventions in their communities, most of them in Ash Shamayatayn. Only 17% of the total respondents invited to participate in these interventions, with a higher participation rate in Al Musaymir than any other district. Interestingly but not surprisingly, no female respondents participated in the interventions except 5% of female respondents in Ash Shamayatayn, who confirmed that there are interventions in their community.

In Ash Shamayatayn, the male respondents participated in the design, planning, monitoring, and implementation phases of the interventions, while female respondents participated in the design, planning, and implementation phases. In Al Musaymir, the respondents confirmed their participation during the implementation phase, while respondents in Khanfir and Serar, who participated in the designing, planning, monitoring, and implementation phases of the interventions. Their roles are divided into local mediators, workers, supervisors, and coordinators. Importantly, the satisfaction rate for this participation was positive, according to 96% of those participants who participated in interventions targeting their communities.

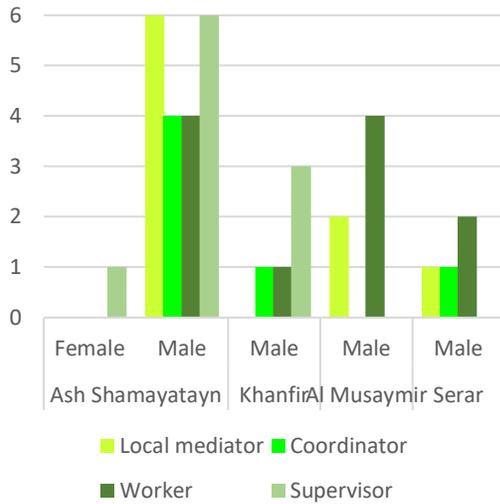


Figure 19 role of participation

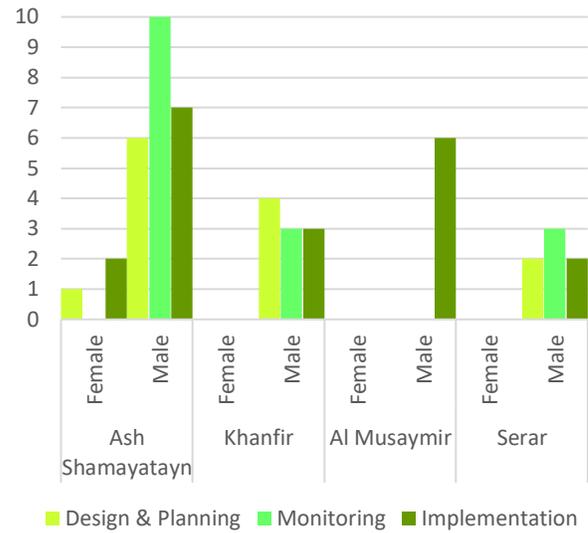


Figure 19 phases of participation

5.11. Local Conflicts

Conflicts Reasons

The households interviewed, as shown in Figure 20, revealed that there are no significant conflicts in their communities, according to 45% of the responses. However, 34% of the total respondents clarified that conflicts occurred due to aid distribution. In contrast, 21% stated that most conflicts are because of service delivery and lack of infrastructure.

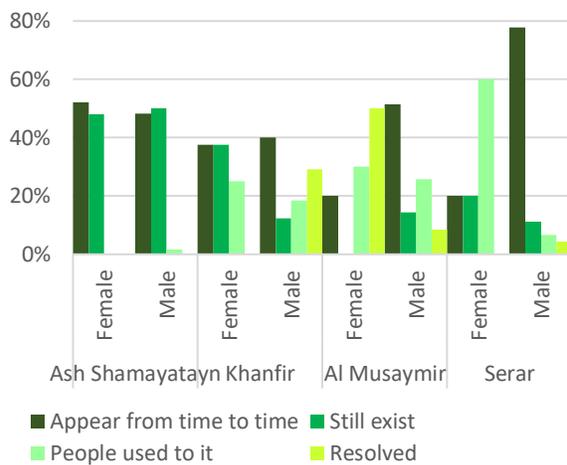


Figure 21 Frequency of Conflicts

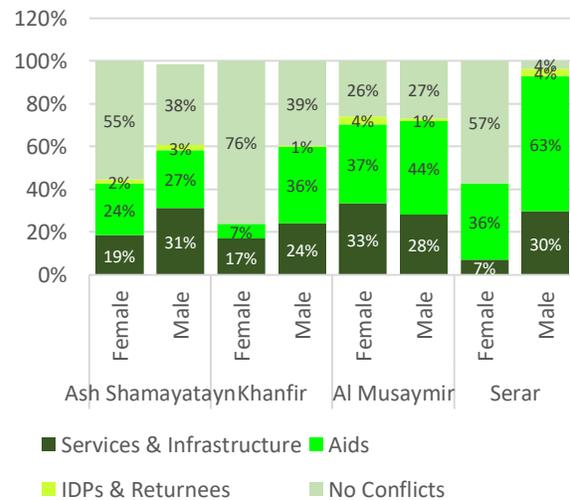


Figure 21 Type of Conflicts

According to FGD participants and KIIs interviews, many conflicts emerged in the local communities because of the deteriorated economic situation. In Ash Shamayatayn, most of the conflicts are about getting lands to farm, caused by people in need and internal displacement, which has urged the need for land within the local community; other conflicts also appeared over the aids due to their inability to fulfill community needs. Moreover, as a result of the current crisis, many services, and infrastructure projects, especially water projects, had suspended. For instance, in Al Asabeh Village, there was a water network supply project, called Al Omair Water, had suspended due to financial problems with the previous committee of the project. However, a new committee had formed, which handed the project for a tradesperson to overcome the financial difficulties. Currently, the citizens are obliged to pay 5000 YER monthly as payment installment for the new counters they were instructed by the project administration to install besides the old ones, which increased the financial burden on the citizens. It is worth mentioning that the local council supports the new administration of the project that the citizens could not complain about and any opposition against the new system faced by a threat to cut the water supply. Also, in Al Musaymir, the community suffers from conflicts related to power, water, rain streams, and lack of security.

Moreover, rain streams threaten the agriculture lands and roads, which lead to a dispute over streams protection projects; for instance, some farmers refuse to participate in projects regarding streams irrigations canals, yet they want to benefit from the projects which spike conflict over the irrigation canals. Besides, some conflicts happen due to livestock trespassing agriculture lands and eat or destroy the crops. Security is also one of the main issues in Al Musaymir as thefts spread in the community, threatening people's lives and possessions. Likewise, in Khanfir, people suffer from many conflicts about Irrigation channels and changing the direction of the stream based on individuals' benefits, land conflicts, and random construction. Also, seizing the public properties led to bloodshed in some cases, as well as conflicts over services such as sanitation networks and retaliation cases. Similarly, in Serar, the core conflict that the community suffers from is related to irrigation canals on rain seasons due to the lack of water sources in the area. Also, there are some conflicts over lands, especially agriculture lands during the agriculture season, and some conflicts over political affiliations that perceived regular conflicts, according to KIIs.

Conflict Resolutions

Importantly, the resolution mechanisms of these conflicts are somewhat similar for the four districts. Households interviewed listed the ways and methods of which they usually solve local conflicts and disputes; as shown in Figure 21, the most used mechanism in Ash Shamayatayn, as reported by 47% of the respondents, is through community dialogues, while in Al Musaymir, 54% of the respondents said that they used to go for mediation to solve conflicts. Further, 59% of female respondents in Khanfir stated that most conflicts are resolved by going to authorities when 62% of male respondents indicated mediation as the primary conflict resolution mechanism. Also, in Serar, 74% of the respondents said mediation is the most followed conflict resolution mechanism in the community.

Furthermore, to resolve community conflicts, some Social Figures and entities take the lead in the resolutions process, as shown in Figure 22. In Ash Shamayatayn, as stated by 33% of the respondents, sheikhs are usually the foremost destination for people to resolve conflicts. In Al Musaymir, females usually seek community committee and Social Figures for conflict resolutions, as stated by 45% of female

respondents. In comparison, 44% of male respondents reported sheikhs as the leading figure for resolving conflicts. In contrast, in Khanfir, 71% of female respondents said that the community committee is the entity that resolves the community conflicts when 56% of male respondents mentioned the village council as a dependable body to resolve community conflicts. Also, in Serar, 80% of the respondents said that the community depends on sheikhs to resolve conflicts. Importantly, the resolution mechanisms of these conflicts are somewhat similar for the four districts. Households interviewed listed the ways and methods of which they usually solve local conflicts and disputes; as shown in Figure 21, the most used mechanism in Ash Shamayatayn, as reported by 47% of the respondents, is through community dialogues, while in Al Musaymir, 54% of the respondents said that they used to go for mediation to solve conflicts. Further, 59% of female respondents in Khanfir stated that most conflicts are resolved by going to authorities when 62% of male respondents indicated mediation as the primary conflict resolution mechanism. Also, in Serar, 74% of the respondents said mediation is the most followed conflict resolution mechanism in the community.

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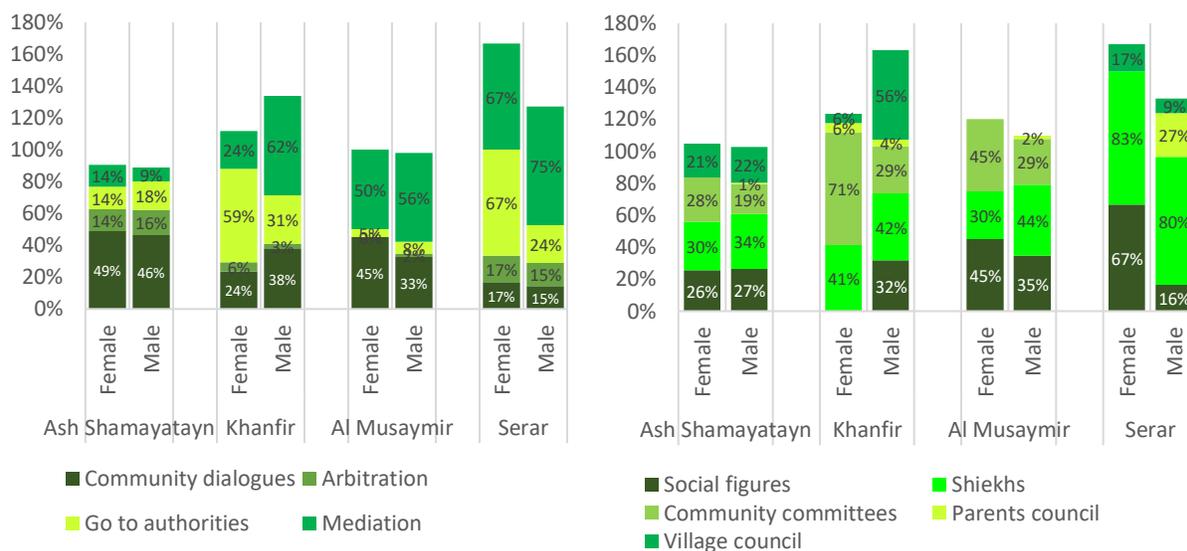


Figure 23 Conflict Resolution Mechanisms

Figure 23 Conflict Resolution Influencers

sheikhs are usually the foremost destination for people to resolve conflicts. in Al Musaymir, females usually seek community committee and Social Figures for conflict resolutions, as stated by 45% of female respondents. In comparison, 44% of male respondents reported sheikhs as the leading figure for resolving conflicts. In contrast, in Khanfir, 71% of female respondents said that the community committee is the entity that resolves the community conflicts when 56% of male respondents mentioned the village council as a reliable body to resolve community conflicts. Also, in Serar, 80% of the respondents said that the community depends on sheikhs to resolve conflicts.

Unfortunately, these conflicts impact the local communities' livelihood, services, and infrastructure, as shown in Figures 23 and 24. According to 69% of the interviewed households, these conflicts have impact ranges from negative to very negative on their livelihood, services, and infrastructure, while 25% said the impact on their livelihood is moderate, which most of them in Al Musaymir. Interestingly, 50% and 40%

of female respondents in Al Musaymir and Serar, respectively, do not observe any impact on the community livelihood. Further, 19% measured the impact on the services and infrastructure in their community as moderate, which most of them in Al Musaymir and Khanfir, and similarly, 40% and 80% of female respondents in Al Musaymir and Serar respectively said that conflicts are not impacting services and infrastructure in their communities.

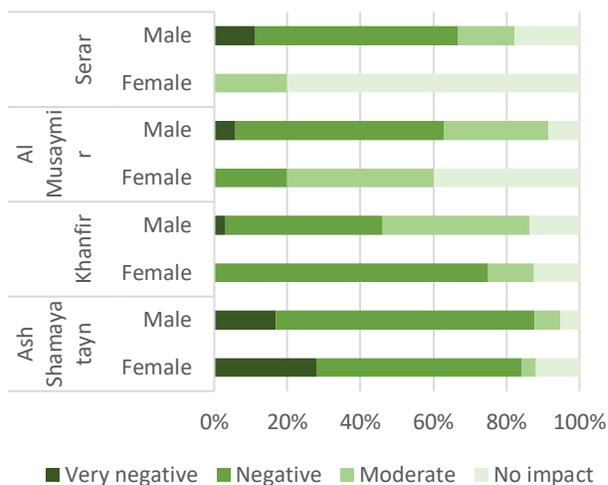


Figure 25 Conflicts Impact on Services & Infrastructure

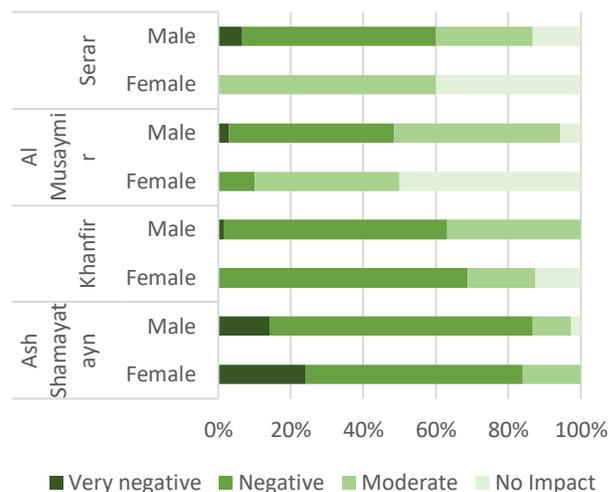


Figure 25 Conflicts impact on Livelihood

“The local community is initiative on high level toward resolving conflicts; the villages council, the public figures, and the local authorities quickly move to resolve conflicts and disputes.”

Fawzi Muhammed Ali – Manager of general manager office – Serar, Abyan

“There are some competent people who contribute effectively on a high level with big concern to resolve conflicts such as teachers and Masjid Imams”

Muhammed Saleh Qasem – Teacher – Al Musaymir, Lahj

However, as the conflicts affect the local communities' livelihood and services, the communities are feeling responsible for resolving these conflicts, which clearly expressed by the interviewed households, FGDs participants, and KIIs; 92% of the interviewed households expressed positive responses about the community initiation towards resolving local conflicts as shown in Figure 25.

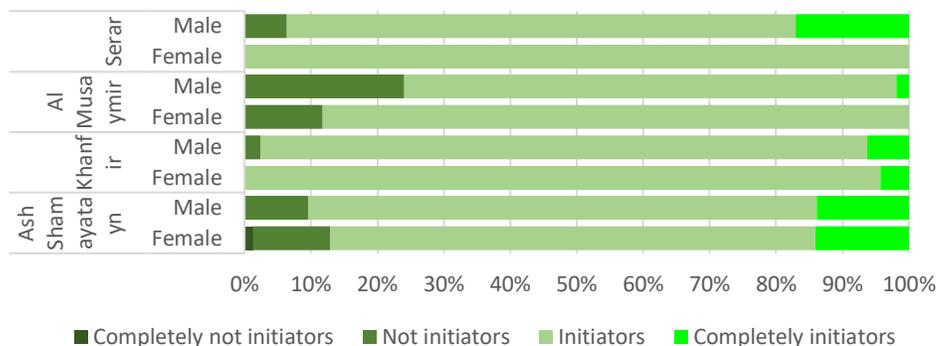


Figure 26 Community initiation toward conflict resolution

There is a moderate existence of conflicts within the targeted communities; most of them are due to aids distribution or service delivery. Also, it concluded that the primary mechanisms for resolving the conflicts are through Mediation, Community Dialogues, or going to Authorities. Moreover, the most favorable parities to ask for their help to determine the disputes are Sheikhs, Social Figures, and Community Committees. As the results exposed that 34% of conflicts occurred are due to insufficient or unfair aid distribution, while 24% of disputes are because of getting water or access to lands, while 45% of respondents revealed that there is no existence of conflicts. Mediation is considered one of the most favorable mechanisms to resolve disputes according to 45% of total respondents; also, community dialogues are considered one of the most followed tools to resolve conflicts, and resorting to authorities is regarded as one of the most frequent mechanisms that households support to resolve their disputes. For mediation and community dialogue, Sheikhs are considered the most figures that household's resort to resolve their conflicts according to 48% of the total respondents, followed by Social Figures according to 35% of total respondents, and Community Committees according to 32% of the total respondents.

6. Natural Capital

Natural Capital is about what nature provides, including land, water, air, forests, fish, etc. This factor affects people's livelihood according to natural resources, as well as natural hazards and disasters. This section assesses the status of land and water resources regarding its accessibility and its surrounded environment, as well as the seasonal calendar of crops, rain, and any related farming events. Also, it assesses the natural hazards and the mechanisms used to manage and deal with them.

6.1. Capital Status

Responses varied regarding the status of Natural Capital elements such as accessibility to the water and land resources and the ability to deal with natural hazards. In Ash Shamayatayn District-Taiz, there is good accessibility for water and land resources. However, weak availability of hazards management mechanism as the average of responses about the ease of accessing water and land resources was 2.1 out of 3, while the availability of management mechanism for natural hazards was 1.1 out of 3. In Khanfir District- Abyan, good access to water and land resources was reported by the respondents, as the average of responses was 2.3 out of 3, and the respondents reported weak availability for the hazards' management mechanism as the average answers was 1.7 out of 3.

In Contrast, In Al Musaymir District- Lahj, there is poor accessibility to water and lands as well as weak availability for natural hazards mechanism as the average of responses for water and lands accessibility was 1.5 out of 3, and the average of answers for the hazards' management mechanism was 1.4 out of 3. Likewise, in Serar District-Abyan, there is poor access to water and land resources as well as weak availability for hazards' management mechanism as the average responses for the water and land

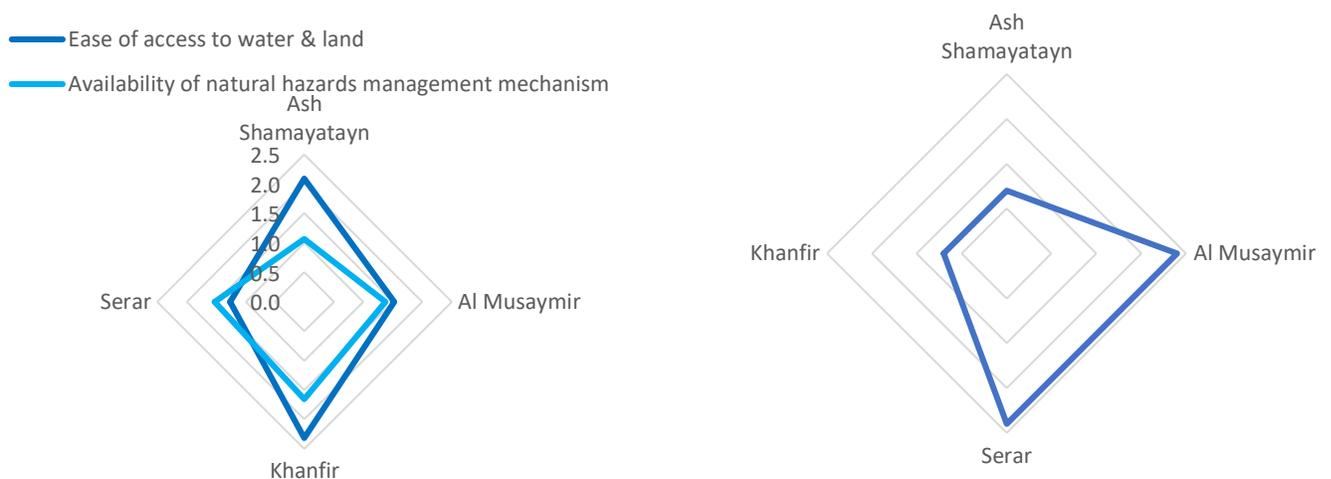


Figure 28 Ease and Availability of Natural Capital

Figure 28 Water Access Vulnerability

accessibility was 1.1 out of 3, and the average of answers for the availability of hazards’ management mechanism was 1.5 out of 3. Even though all districts are suffering from accessing water resources, it is clear that people of Al Musaymir and Serar are more vulnerable than people of Ash Shamayatayn and Khanfir regarding access to water resources.

There is difficulty in accessing natural resources, such as water and lands, yet Serar and Al Musaymir are considered the most vulnerable districts regarding access to resources. Also, there is a weak availability of hazard management mechanisms in all targeted districts. As the results revealed, hard accessibility to water and land resources as the average of the received answers was 1.8 out of 3. Also, the received responses exposed the weak existence of hazard management mechanism in all targeted districts as the average of responses was 1.4 out of 3.

6.2. Natural Resources Accessibility (Water and Lands)

The respondents were asked about the accessibility to water and land resources in their districts.

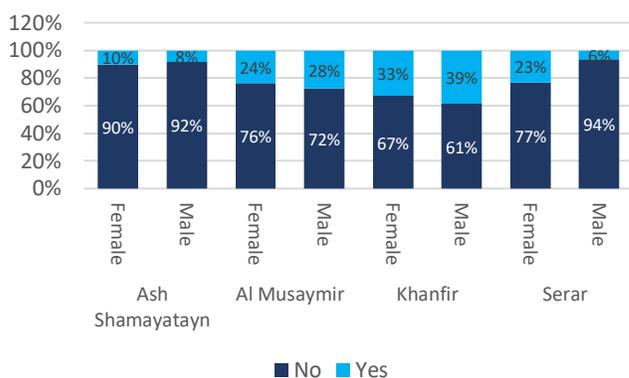


Figure 30 Free Accessibility to Water

Generally, there is no free access to drinking water or water for agriculture. As shown in Figure 28, in Ash Shamayatayn, 91% of both female and male respondents reported that access to water is chargeable, while 74% of female and male respondents in Al Musaymir District-Lahj stated that access to water is not free. Still, in Khanfir district-Abyan, 64% of female and male respondents reported that water accessibility is not free, and 86%

of females and male respondents declared the same.

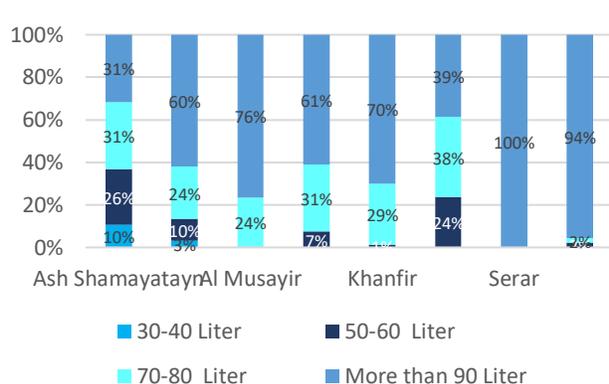


Figure 31 Water Consumption

Regarding the daily water consumption for households, as shown in Figure 29, the majority of respondents consume 70 liters and more, whether for regular consumption or farming consumption. The

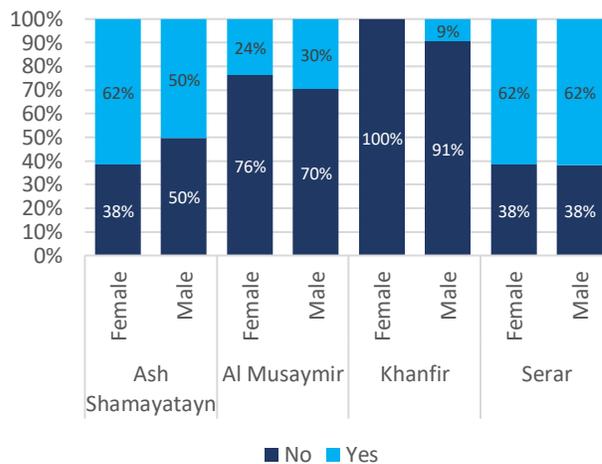


Figure 29 Access to Lands

overall daily use is more than 90 liters of water, according to 66% of the total respondents. The households of Serar District-Abyan consume water more than consumed in other districts, as 97% of females and males reported that they consume more than 90 liters per day. In Ash Shamayatayn District-Taiz, 60% of male respondents consume more than 90 liters against 31% of female respondents consume more than 90 liters of water daily, 31% of female respondents consume 70-80 liter against 24% of male respondents, and 26% of female respondents consume 50-60 liter against 10% of male respondents. Also, 76% of female interviewees in Al Musaymir District-Lahj consume more than 90 liters of water against 61% of male respondents who reported that they consume more than 90 liters of water. Likewise, 70% of female interviewees in Khanfir District-Abyan consume more than 90 liters of water against 39% of male respondents who consume more than 90 liters of water. Also, 29% of female respondents consume between 70-80 liter of water against 38% of male respondents consume 70-80 liter of water.

The average monthly cost, as shown in Figure 31, that people pay for water in Ash Shamayatayn, Al Musaymir, and Khanfir is **4,309 YER**. In contrast, the average cost of monthly water consumption in Serar District is **32,952 YER**. As shown in Figure 33, 62% of Serar District respondents reported that they have lands to farm that justify the high consumption of water in Serar. Likewise, 56% of respondents in Ash Shamayatayn have lands to farm. In contrast, only 27% of respondents in Al Musaymir have lands to farm, and only 9% of respondents in Khanfir District-Abyan respondents reported that they have lands to farm.

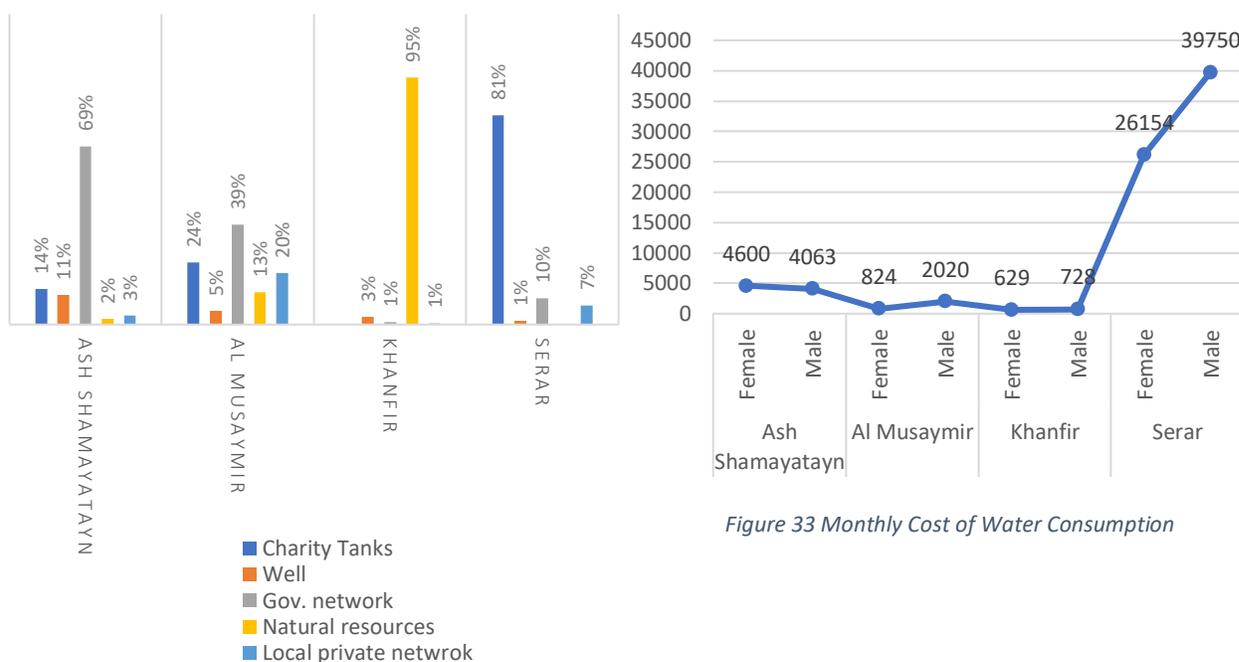


Figure 32 Source of water

Water sources for households' daily consumptions varied from one district to another. As shown in Figure 31, In Ash Shamayatayn district- Taiz, the most common water source used is water public-network according to 69% of respondents. In contrast, the primary water source used in Khanfir district- Abyan was natural resources, according to 95% of respondents, and the primary source of obtaining water in Serar District-Abyan was through charity water tanks.

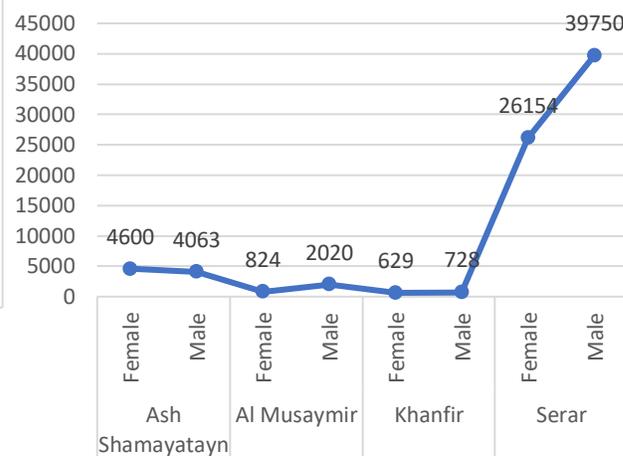


Figure 33 Monthly Cost of Water Consumption

The occurrence of conflicts due to getting water varied from one district to another, but was not significant. As appeared in Figure 33, in Ash Shamayatayn District- Taiz, 63% of female respondents and 59% of male respondents stated that there are no conflicts occurred when obtaining water. In comparison, 16% of female respondents and 18% of male respondents reported that only verbal disputes might arise while getting water among community members. Likewise, in Khanfir District-Abyan, 90% of female respondents and 48% of male respondents declared that no conflicts happened while getting water, yet 31% of male respondents reported there might be verbal disputes, and 21% stated that sometimes there is a brawl with fistfights while getting water. On the other hand, in Serar district-Abyan, 100% of female respondents said that there are always verbal disputes; also, 75% of male respondents reported the same. In contrast, 18% of male respondents reported that sometimes fist fighting while getting water. As same as, in Al Musaymir District-Lahj, 44% of female respondents and 58% of male respondents declared that some verbal disputes occurred, and 48% of female respondents and 30% of male respondents reported quarreling with some fistfights among community members while obtaining water.

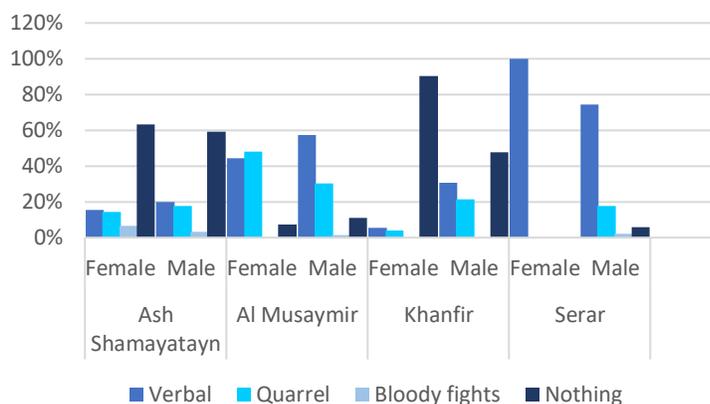


Figure 34 Conflicts Over Water and Lands

However, these conflicts and disputes are resolved by following two main approaches, which are dialogues and mediation, as shown in Figure 34. In Ash Shamayatayn, 64% of respondents said that they make dialogues among community members to resolve such conflicts that related to water, and 17% said they go to mediation to resolve their issues, while 11% go to the relevant authorities to resolve their disputes. On the other hand, Al Musaymir District, Khanfir district, and Serar District respondents reported that they rely more on mediation to solve their problems. In Al Musaymir, 63% of respondents declared mediation as the most followed approach to resolve their issues, while 32% of respondents reported dialogues as a primary approach. Also, in Khanfir District-Abyan, 100% of female respondents and 51% of male respondents said that mediation is the first approach followed to resolve their disputes. In comparison, 25% of male respondents reported going to the relevant authorities is the primary approach, and 19% stated that dialogue is the fundamental approach of resolving disputes. Similarly, in Serar District-Abyan, 56% of respondents indicated mediation as the primary approach of solving problems, 23% reported authorities as a fundamental approach, and 15% declared that arbitration is the primary one.

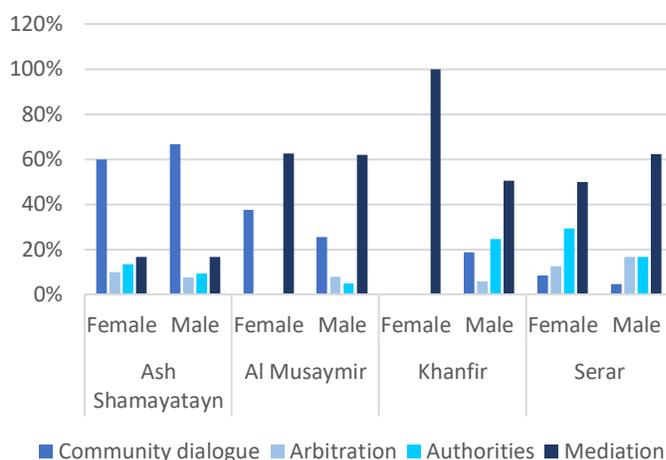


Figure 35 Conflict Management

Access to lands as well as the water is not for free in the targeted districts. Households use 70 and more liters of water per day, yet it is not considered expensive for the households in Ash Shamayatayn, Khanfir, and Al Musaymir districts, but not for Serar District households. Natural resources of water are considered the primary one for households in Ash Khanfir, and the government water network is regarded as the critical source of water for Ash Shamayatayn and Al Musaymir. In contrast, charity water tanks are considered the primary source of water in Serar District. As the results illustrated that 79% of households do not have full free access to water as well as 63% of households, do not have free access to lands. Moreover, 66% of respondents consume more than 90 liters of water per day, while 30% of households consume between 70-80 liters of water per day. The average cost that households pay for water per month is USD 5 for Ash Shamayatayn, Khanfir, and Al Musaymir households, while it is much higher for Serar District as the average amount that Serar's households pay is around USD 55. Regarding water resources, 69% and 39% of households in Ash Shamayatayn and Al Musaymir respectively rely on government water networks, while 95% of households in Khanfir rely on natural resources of water. In contrast, 81% of households in Serar and 24% of households in Al Musaymir rely on charity water tanks.

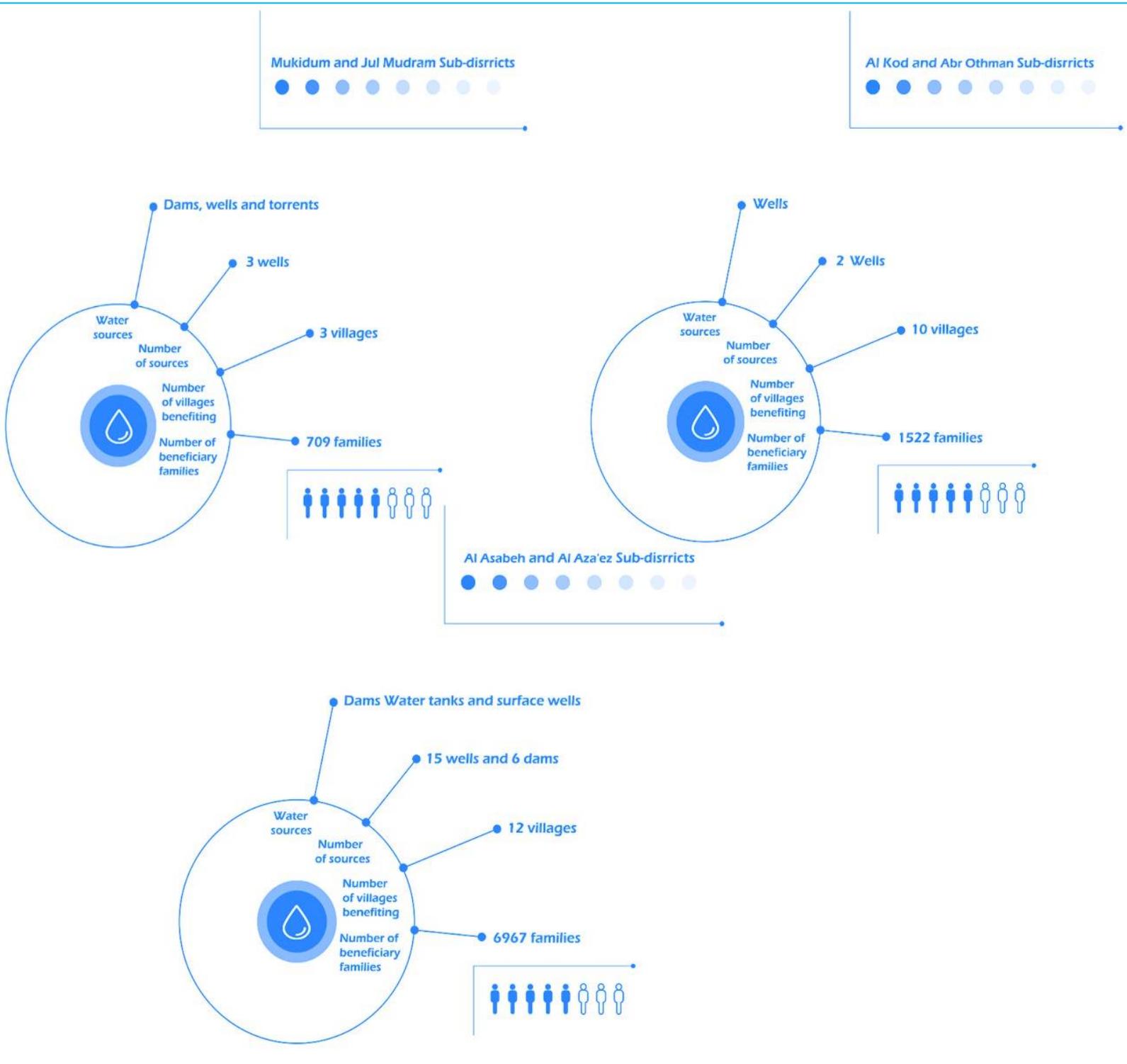


Figure 36 Mapping of Water Resources

6.3. Seasonal Calendar

The Baseline study identified the seasonal calendar for the most common crops as well as the calendar of the seasonal water sources and natural hazards. In Al Musaymir District-Lahj, the most communal planted crops are Hot-pepper, Okra, Radish, Olive, Lemon, Mango, and Papaya. Okra and Hot-Pepper Crops are planted during all the year, while Olive planted in January and February. Also, Lemon is planted in March, April, and May. Moreover, Radish is planted from January to May, and Papaya planted in April, and Mango from June to September.

Regarding Honey, it is harvested in October and November. On the other hand, the raining streaming and wind

seasons starting from June to October. Also, the district suffers from well water shortage and drought during the period from January to May. Also, farms suffer insect attacks in July and August.

In Khanfir and Serar District- Abyan, Millet, Sesame, Almond, and Cane are the most planted Crops, especially in Serar as Khanfir is a coastal district that their people usually work in fishing. Concerning planting, Sesame is cultivated in July and August, while Sugar Cane is planted from July to October; also, Millet is cultivated in August. On the other hand, fishing season is active in January, May, June, and September to December as there are different kinds of fishes distributing through these months. Regarding the Hazards occurred in the districts, the raining season starting from May ending in September, while wind starting from February to September, and rain streaming season starting from June to September. Also, farms suffer from insect attack from August to October. In Ash Shamayatayn District-Taiz, only two main Crops planted there are Hot-Pepper and Zucchini, also Honey harvesting. Hot-Pepper is planted only in January and March, while Zucchini is cultivated and harvested during the period from May to October, and Honey is harvested in March. On the other hand, the raining season starting from May to October, while wind season comes mostly in April. Also, farms suffer insect attacks in April and May.



Figure 37 Seasonal Calendar- Al Musaymir

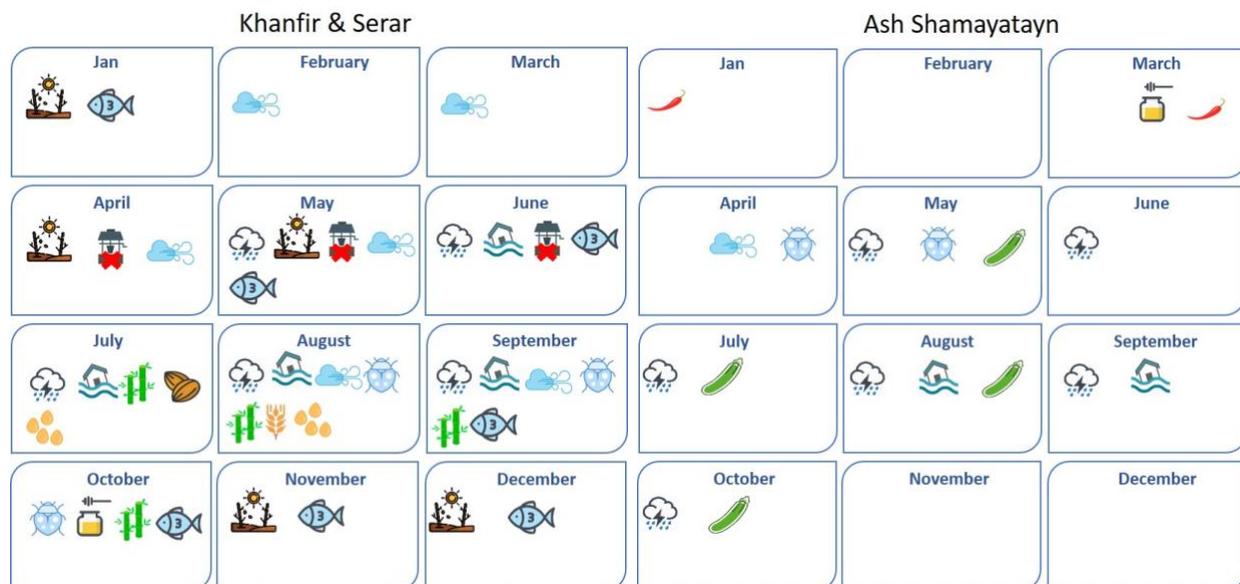


Figure 38 Seasonal Calendar- Khanfir, Serar, and Ash Shamayatayn

Al Musaymir District is considered an agriculture district that has various crops, yet the most planted crops during the year are Okra and Hot-Pepper. In contrast, the main crop planted in Ash Shamayatayn is Zucchini that is planted from May to October. In Khanfir, the main activity is fishing that is weak during wind seasons in July and August, while in Serar, Sesame and Cane are the most planted crops from July to October. Regarding the rain season, it starts in May and ends in October in all targeted districts.

6.4. Natural Hazards

Natural hazards are varied from one district to another. In Ash Shamayatayn District- Taiz, few risks occasionally occurred, as shown in Figure 38, the most common hazard is Cholera, according to 29% of respondents, followed by drought, according to 19% of responses. In Al Musaymir District-Lahj, the most common dangers that happened due to poor infrastructure is Cholera, according to 40% of responses, followed by torrents according to 31% of responses, also heavy rainfall, according to 19% of responses. In Khanfir District- Abyan, the most common hazard the community face is the Cholera, according to 23% of respondents, followed by heavy rains, according to 13% of respondents, and drought, according to 9% of respondents. In Contrast, Drought is the most common hazard the community face, according to 49% of respondents, followed by 33% of respondents, and Rock Sliding, according to 10% of respondents.

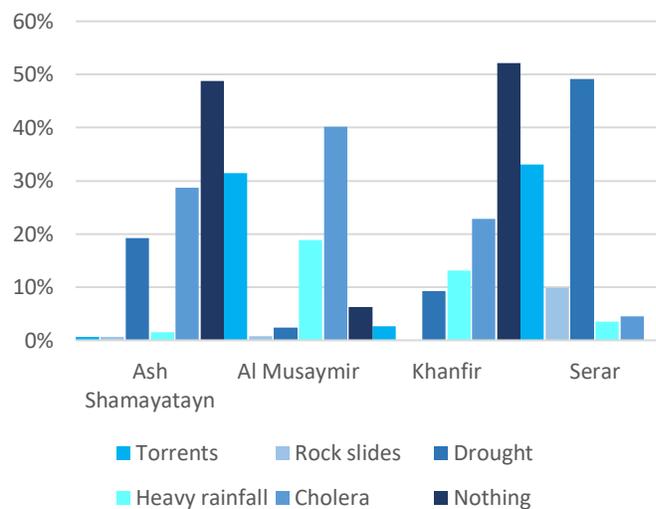


Figure 39 Hazards Types

The hazards mentioned above caused different kinds of impacts, as shown in Figure 39. In Ash Shamayatayn- Taiz, 39% of respondents stated that the mentioned hazards caused illness in the community, 28% of respondents noted that the mentioned hazards caused physical losses, while 12% of respondents declared that the risks caused famine in the district. Likewise, in Al Musaymir- Lahj, 62% of respondents said that the occurred hazards spread epidemics in the area, while 31% of respondents stated that the dangers caused physical losses. Also, in Khanfir District- Abyan, 72% of responses reported that hazards caused diseases in the community, while 37% of male respondents stated that physical losses are one of the impacts the community suffers from due to the occurred hazards. On the other hand, in Serar District- Abyan, 57% of respondents stated that the occurred risks resulted in physical losses, and 32% of respondents said that hazards resulted in illness in the community, only 15% of male respondents stated that one of the hazards impacts was Death. The spread of diseases like Cholera and physical losses due to heavy rain streaming is the most common impacts.

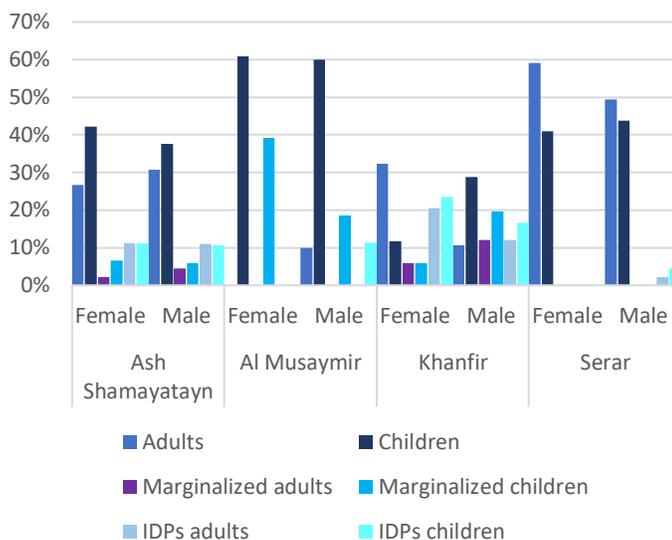


Figure 40 Most Affected People

Children and adults are the most affected people within the community, as shown in Figure 40, children of the host community in Ash Shamayatayn are the most affected people according to 40% of the respondents, followed by adults according to 29% of the respondents. Likewise, in Al Musaymir District- Lahj, 60% of the respondents reported that children of the host community are the most affected ones, followed by marginalized children, according to 29% of the respondents. In Khanfir District- Abyan, 32% of female respondents stated that adults of the host community are the most affected ones, followed by children and adults of the IDPs, according to 22% of female respondents. In contrast, 29% of male respondents reported that children of the host community are the most affected ones, followed by marginalized children and IDPs children according to 20% and 17% of male respondents.

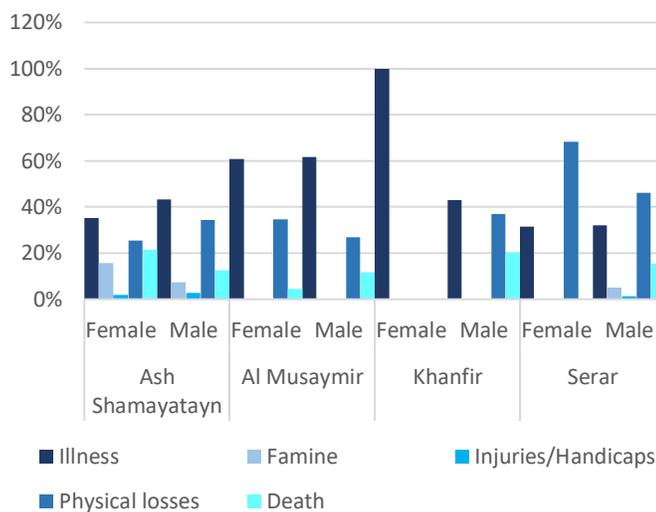


Figure 41 Impact of Hazards

Also, in Serar District- Abyan, 54% of respondents stated that adults of the hosting community are the most affected ones, followed by children of the hosting community, according to 43% of the respondents.

Hazards varied from a district to another. In Serar District, Drought and Torrents are considered the most threatening risks on Serar people. In contrast, the Cholera epidemic is regarded as the most dangerous hazard for Khanfir, Al Musaymir, and Ash Shamayatayn districts. These hazards are caused by the usual spread of Illness and Physical Loss. As the results showed that 24% of the respondents considered Cholera the most affected risk, while Drought is regarded by 20% of the respondents as the primary hazard, and 17% of the respondents found Torrents as the main hazard.

7. Physical Capital

Physical Capital comprises the necessary infrastructure that people need to make a living, as well as the tools and equipment that they use, and producer goods required to support livelihoods. The infrastructure looks at changes in the environment that affect communication and access to essential services. Production of products depends on the tools and equipment which increase productivity. In this section, the Physical Capital will be focusing on six primary services/ capital a) Schools, b) Energy, c) Roads, d) Sanitation, e) Hospitals, and f) Central Markets.

7.1. Capital Status

Importance

All the community members in the targeted areas in this Baseline study have affirmed the importance of the Physical Capital they want in their community. Household participants in all districts perceived all Physical Capital equally necessary except for the community members of Al Musaymir District as they reported the Central Markets as lower importance compared with the other capitals as the average of responses was 1.7 out of 3.

Availability

Concerning the Physical Capital availability, the participants of all districts expressed high availability of **schools** in their communities. Nevertheless, community members described that schools are still in bad shape in terms of furniture and studying materials like books. The KII participants also stressed that schools are available for all community members; however, the education process is of low grade due to many factors, such as 1) Lack of support for these schools to be received from the local authority, 2) Lack of classrooms comparing to the number of students, and 3) Girl students mainly in Abyan are likely to drop out school because there are no specific schools for girls. Access to schools is considered equally accessible to different groups in the community, including (Internal Displaced People)- IDPs. This accessibility is significant for younger students from both genders. The accessibility to schools affected older girl students in Khanfir, Serar, and Al Musaymir, as households begin to show some reservations about girls' enrollment in schools, as education is coed or schools are far from the households' living areas.

Energy is one of the sectors that have been severely affected by the war, even in areas without conflict at the moment, yet the local authority is still unable to provide the necessary electricity for the different entities in the targeted communities as most of the infrastructure is either destroyed or in need for maintenance or for the inability to afford diesel prices. Interviewed community members, FGD sessions participants, and KIIs have expressed that most of the energy and electricity they get is through private generators or solar system. While in the south (Lahj and Abyan), community members also added a new source of energy, which is the local government electricity network, although they described it as

insufficient as it only works for a couple of hours during the day. Access to energy, when available, is linked to the ability to pay or bear the cost of energy bills. Low-income households and IDPs are less likely to have access to energy due to their inferior financial situation.

Roads are one capital that had been impacted by war, either by being destroyed or by being closed. In general, interviewed community members in areas such as Al Shamayatayn and Khanfir expressed better accessibility to roads than those in the other districts, who claimed less accessibility. Both genders have equal accessibility to roads, as being stated by different participants in the Baseline study.

Water and sanitation are one of the services that are least available in almost all targeted areas in the study except in Serar- Abyan, where community members have claimed relative availability for the water and sanitation services (water network and sewage system). Water accessibility varies in the different targeted areas addressed by the study, as people rely on personal and family ability to bear the various costs to get water to their homes. The water resources available in the targeted communities are local water networks, wells, and commercial water tanks. Community members interviewed in Ash Shamayatayn have a local water network in which they pay regular fees for the water to be delivered to their home. This particular project was run by a local committee that was assigned by the community members. Water service is less accessible to the least fortunate people like the ultra-poor and IDPs; these groups are not able to afford for water to be delivered to their homes. IDPs and ultra-poor are forced to go to fetch water from wells from various locations. A Social Figure in Al Musaymir explained that this process "fetching water " is usually a primary source of conflict between community members and IDPs.

Hospital and health services were among the least services available in all targeted areas by the Baseline study. Health services related to infrastructure were also at the top of the community members' concerns as their communities lack the essential services in the health services and seek these services in the main cities. It was emphasized by the FGDs and KIIs participants that the absence of health services in their areas cost them much money and effort to seek the services in other locations, such as Aden or Taiz cities. All participants in this Baseline study described the health services in their areas as inferior. The respondents stressed that health centers or hospitals in their areas lack a lot of essential materials and medical support; they also described that the health services provided in these facilities are fundamental and only lifesaving services, and anyone would like to seek extra health services must travel to main cities. Moreover, FGDs and KII participants believe that accessing to hospitals and health services are equally accessible to both genders. However, some of them in areas like Ash Shamayatayn and Khanfir community members believe that women have slightly better access to health services, especially the ones provided by international organizations in which focus on motherhood and childhood services. On the other hand, participants of the FGDs believe that health services are also often more accessible for citizens who can afford financial burdens.

Access to **Central Markets** was not perceived as equally crucial by all participants in the targeted areas of the Baseline. The respondents of Al Musaymir did not consider the availability of the Central Market as essential as other services like Energy, Schools, Hospitals, And Roads. While in the current situation, the availability of the Central Markets varies from a target location to another. For example, respondents from Ash Shamayatayn expressed the relative availability of a Central Market in their areas. While in Al

Musaymir and Khanfir, a Central Market was unavailable for most of the community members living in different villages. Access to Central Markets is more likely for men than women, especially in rural areas and communities like in Abyan and Lahj.

In contrast, in Ash Shamayatayn, access to the market is relatively equal to men and women with more benefits for men to access the Central Market. Women usually find more difficulties accessing the Central Market, especially when the market is far from their residence. Access to Central Markets is a crucial factor in this Baseline study; the results showed the average of responses for all districts was 1.4 out of 3 for the availability of Central Markets in their districts, which means there is a weak availability of Central Markets. Generally speaking, men have more access to markets than women. Among the factors that limit women's accessibility to markets, the locations of the Central Markets are considered a real problem for women in rural areas because the markets are relatively far from the places in which they live or that these markets are located in cities or the main sub-directorates. Also, local customs and traditions are still considered a significant obstacle in front of women's access to the market, as many of the communities in which this study was conducted are rural communities, especially those in the governorates of Abyan and Lahj, which makes men undertake the task of going to markets. Going to major cities is a necessity most of the time for members of the community, who want to meet the needs that they lack and cannot get from the markets near their villages. Also, movement between villages or sub-directorates is frequent among members of the community who were interviewed to find out where they get the goods and other

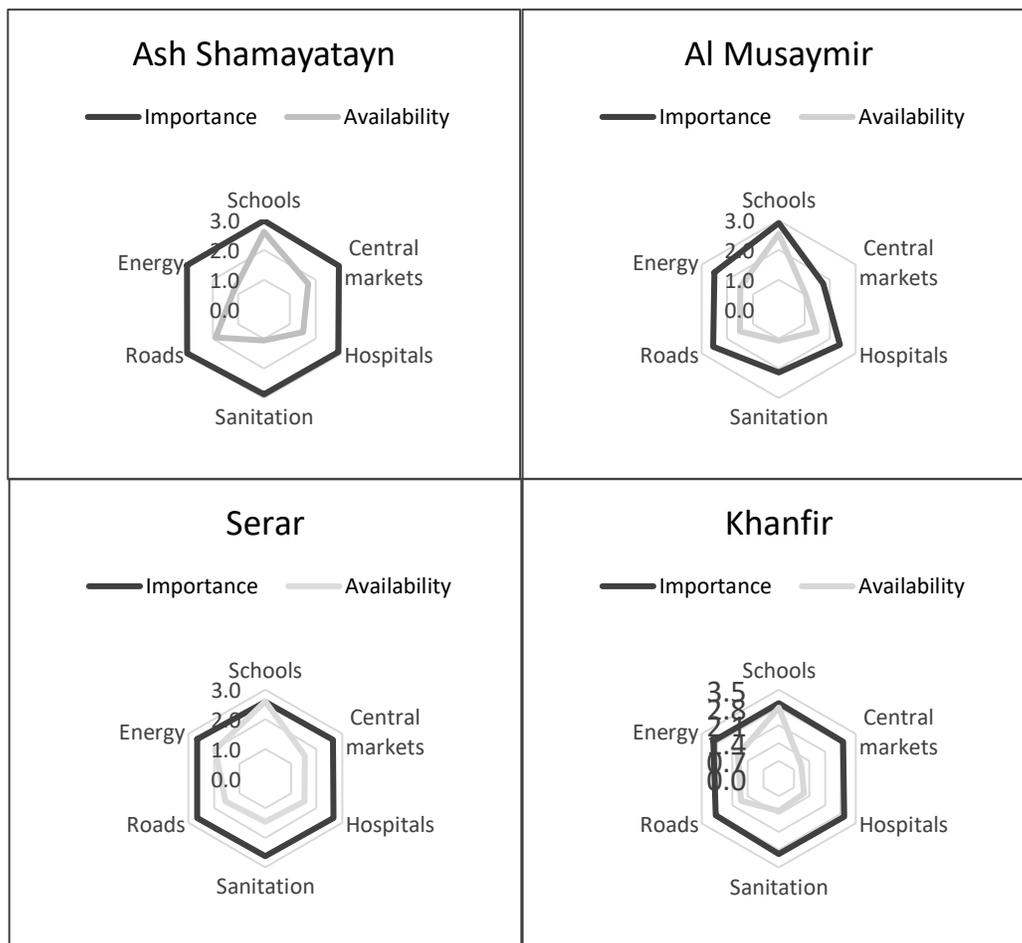


Figure 42 Physical Capital Importance & Availability

essentials they need. Also, the community members from the Ash Shamayatayn District travel the least to the cities, since 65% of the community members in Ash Shamayatayn can provide their needs from nearby markets or nearby villages.

Figure 43 Mapping of the Health Situation in the Targeted Districts

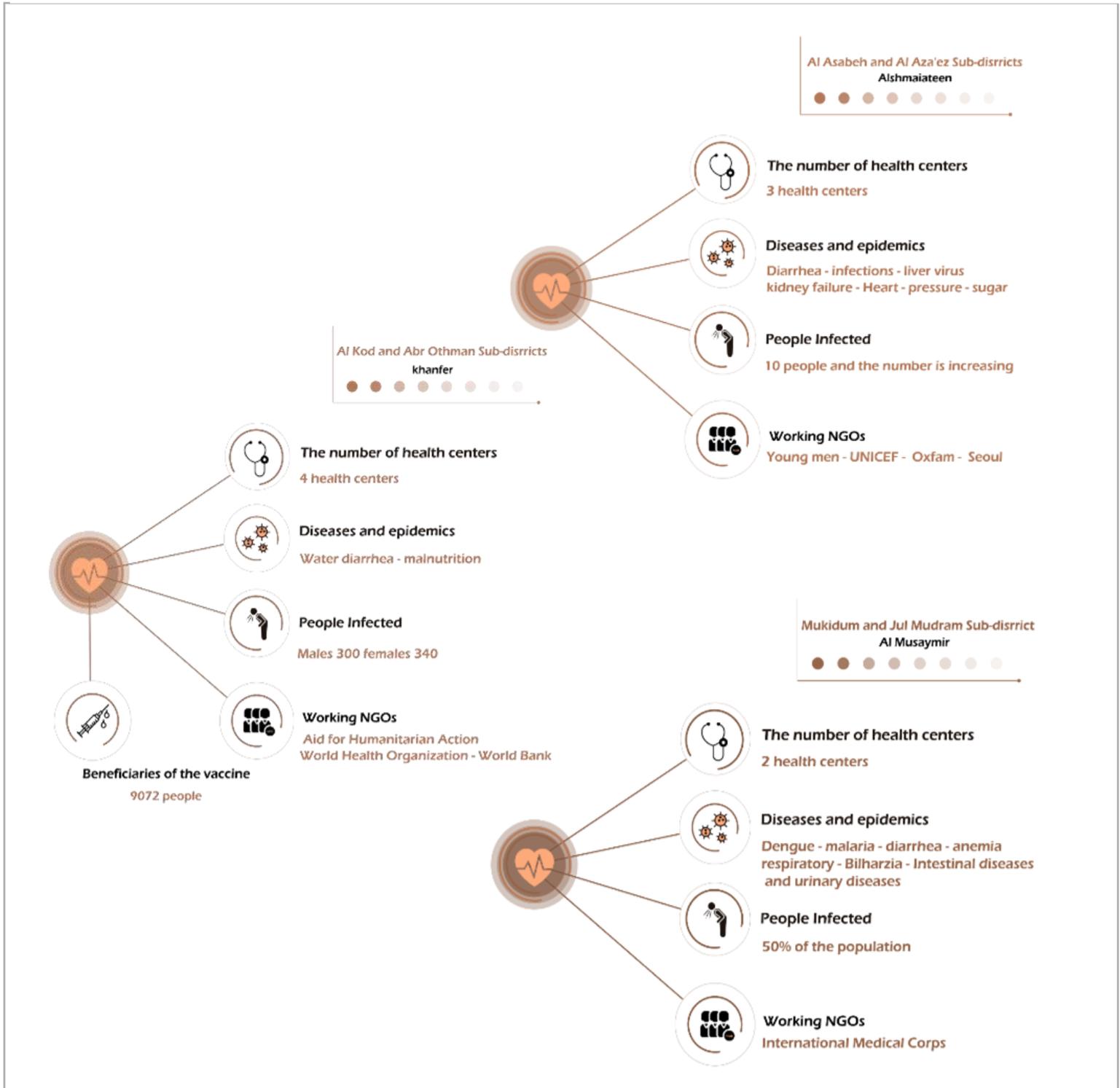
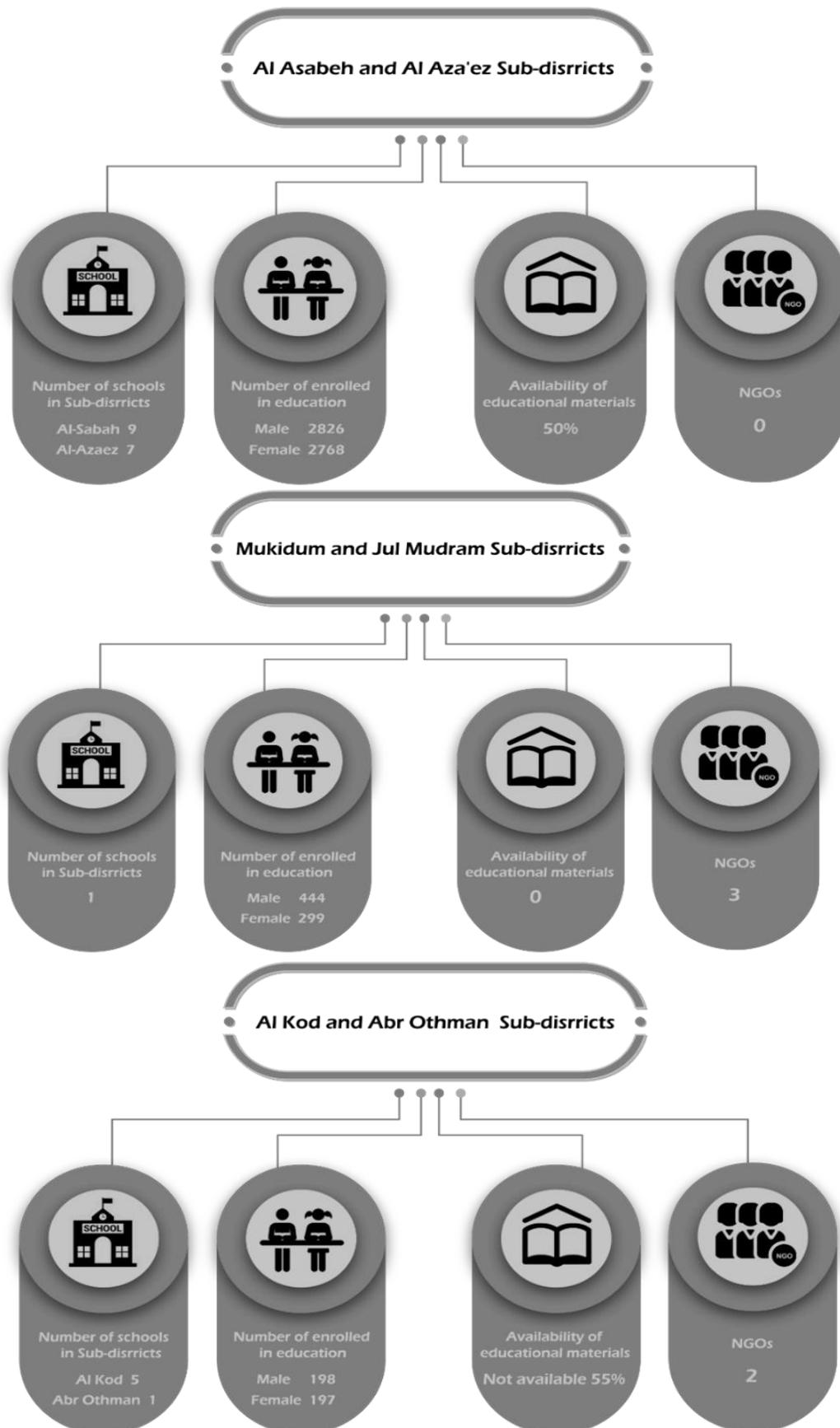


Figure 44 Mapping of the Education Situation in the Targeted Districts



Schools are the most available asset of the Physical Capital comparing to the other assets (Central Markets, Hospitals, Sanitation, Roads, and Energy, still, all these assets are considered relevant by the household interviewed in the directed districts. As the results exposed high importance for the assets mentioned above as the average of responses received by households was 2.6 out of 3. Also, the results showed high availability for schools in the targeted districts as the average of answers was 2.6 out of 3, while the availability of other assets was low as the average of responses was 1.4 out of 3.

7.2. Interventions Targeting Public Services

Efforts exerted for improving these services, as shown in Figure 44, have been considered very low as 85% of the total sample believe that there are no efforts exerted to improve these services. In general, they blame in the first degree the local authorities and their role in developing these services. The highest rate of negative answers came from Khanfir, as the respondents had shown disappointment with the level of efforts to improve the Physical Capital. The respondents who believe that there are some efforts to improve the Physical Capital were mostly in Serar, Ash Shamayatayn, and Al Musaymir. Besides, many players play a crucial role in developing these services alongside the local authority, mainly CSOs, INGOs, Local community initiatives, and the private sector. Respondents in all targeted districts believe that the main actors in improving the different Physical Capital are the INGOs and CSOs, with 71% of the total answers. In Ash Shamayatayn and Al Musaymir, the respondents perceive the local authority as totally absent, having no role in improving the different services in their areas. Other districts, like Serar and Khanfir, still believe that the local authority has a role in improving the current situation of the Physical Capital. At the same time, most of the participants in the Baseline study identified CSO and INGOs as the main actors in improving these services and the Physical Capital.

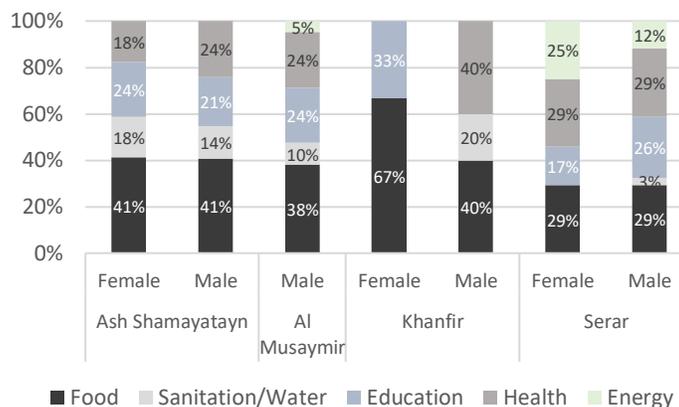


Figure 45 Interventions Sectors

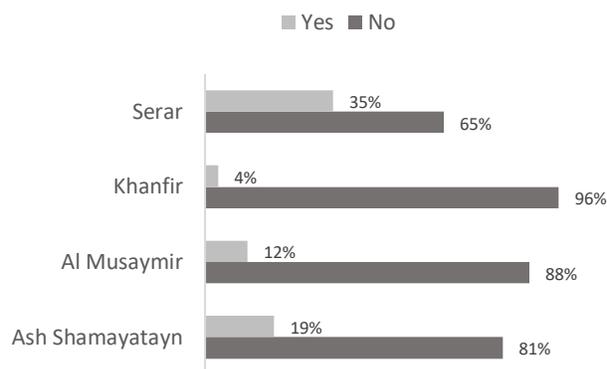


Figure 46 Efforts to improve services

The primary interventions that different actors contributed to their improvement were Food, Sanitation/Water, Education, Health, and Energy, as shown in Figure 45. Only 14% of respondents reported the existence of interventions within their districts mainly provided by INGOs and CSOs, only 11% of them think there was either efficient or very efficient improvement due to these interventions in

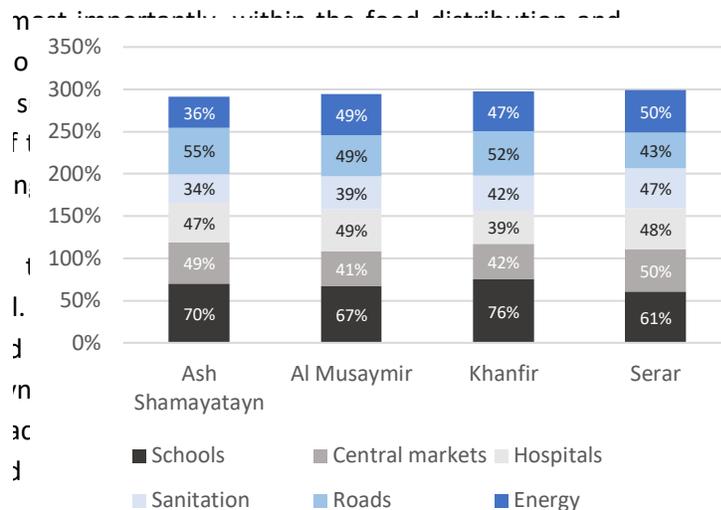
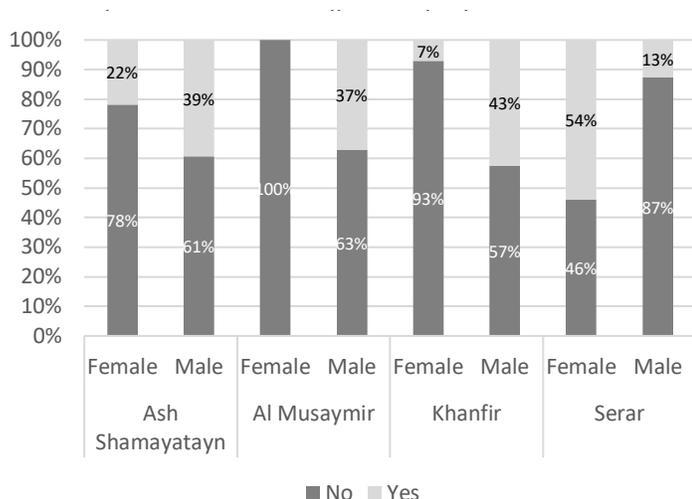


Figure 48 Awareness of People about Authorities Roles in Managing Services

Figure 48 Service Management Satisfaction

Inquiring the satisfaction of the respondents about the delivered service within their district, the respondents from all districts demonstrated moderate satisfaction towards the provided services. However, only Schools had above the average satisfaction according to 68% of the total respondents, while the satisfaction of Health, Central Markets, Sanitation, and Energy was small according to 44% of total respondents.

In the same context, the collected responses demonstrated the ignorance of people regarding the roles or efforts of local authorities in managing the above-mentioned public services. Only 27% of the respondents were aware of the local authorities' role in handling the services, and 87% of them were not satisfied with the mechanism that the local authorities were managing the delivery of public services. In this regard, the KIIs feedback of Serar District reported that the most critical challenge facing the delivery of the public services was the large population of the targeted areas and the inactive response of local authorities to find proper solutions. Also, the FGD participants of both Khanfir and Serar stated that their dissatisfaction was due to the lack of public services or the unfortunate situation of the available ones, such as Schools, Roads, Energy, and Sanitation. Also, the FGD participants of Al Musaymir reported that their dissatisfaction was due to the lack of water networks as people relied mostly on wells waters, and in the winter season, they were forced to buy water that costs a lot. There is an absence of public energy on which people can depend, whether on Solar Energy or through using hand torchlights. The health centers in the targeted areas provide low-level health care services; hence people have to travel to other cities or governorates to seek better services. Also, the roads are in poor condition, making it difficult for people to move around the district smoothly. Similarly, Ash Shamayatayn FGD participants reported their dissatisfaction for the delivered services. The reason behind their dissatisfaction is that the health care services are weak in the district as people cannot find the minimum care that forces them to move to other cities of governorates to get better care.

Most portion of the households in the targeted districts cannot recognize the roles as well as the efforts of local authorities regarding managing or delivering public services. However, there is a moderate satisfaction for the provided services, such as Schools and Roads, and low satisfaction for provided services, such as Hospitals, Energy, Sanitation, and Central Markets as the results demonstrated that only

27% of respondents from all targeted districts are aware of the efforts of the local authority to manage to deliver public services to households. Households' satisfaction regarding provided services, such as Schools and Roads, was moderate as 69% for Schools at 69%, and 50% for roads. In contrast, the satisfaction was fair for the other delivered services such as Hospitals, Energy, Sanitation, and Central Markets at 44% of total responses.

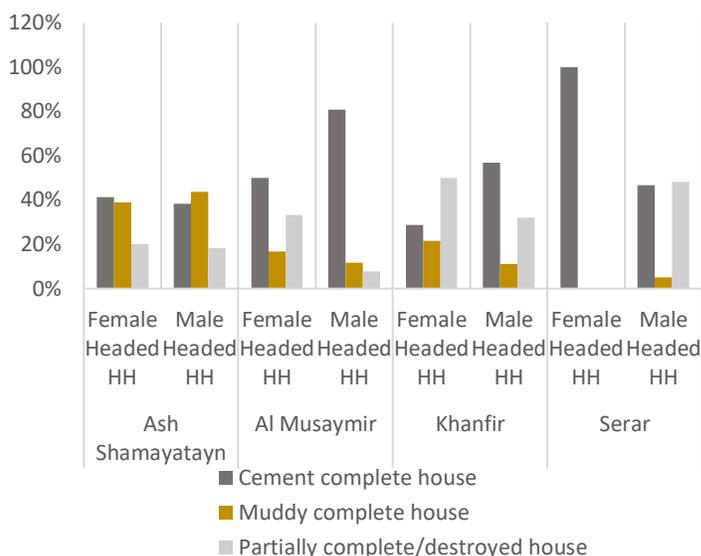


Figure 49 Shelters Type

7.4. Shelters Information

The Baseline inquired about the type, ownership, and condition of respondents' accommodations respondents.

Shelters Type

Regarding the type of houses that respondents live in, as shown in Figure 48, 55% of the respondents reported that they live in a Cement Complete Houses, while 18% of the respondents stated that they are living in a Muddy Complete Houses. In contrast, 26% of respondents claimed that they are living in Partially Complete/Destroyed Houses. The functional status of the accommodations is helping households to focus more on other needs as well as on establishing small or micro-businesses, while the bad shape of accommodations adds financial burdens on households to think in reconstructing their houses.

Shelters Ownership

The majority of respondents owned their houses, as shown in Figure 49, as in Ash Shamayatayn District- Taiz, 62% of respondents wholly-owned their houses, and 29% of respondents partially own their houses. Likewise, in Al Musaymir District-Lahj, and Khanfir District, 92% and 53% respectively of respondents, have full ownership of their accommodation, while 29% partially owned their houses. In Serar District-Abyan, 64% of respondents have full ownership of their housing, while 34% of respondents partly owned their houses. The ownership of accommodations by the households reduces the pressure on them in regards to the expenses of rents and give them better space to establish small scale businesses or income-generating activities.

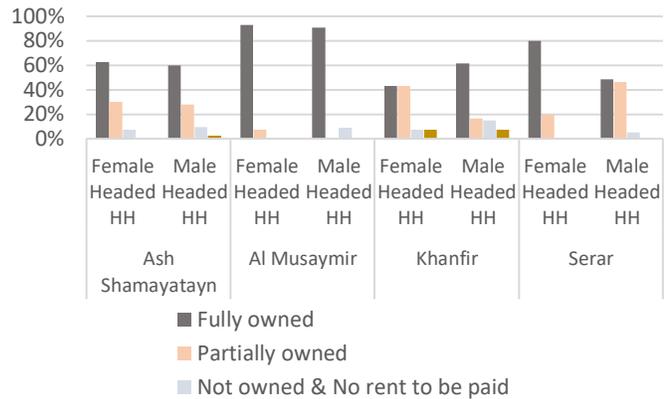


Figure 50 Shelters Ownership

Shelters Independency

Inquiring about the independency of respondents' accommodations, as shown in Figure 50, 77% of the respondents stated that they live independently in their houses, while 21% of respondents shared their accommodation with two to three households. Only 2% of respondents share their houses with more than three households. This independency of accommodations reduces the pressure on households' breadwinners as well as give more advantage to use some of their accommodations spaces for doing or running small scale businesses.

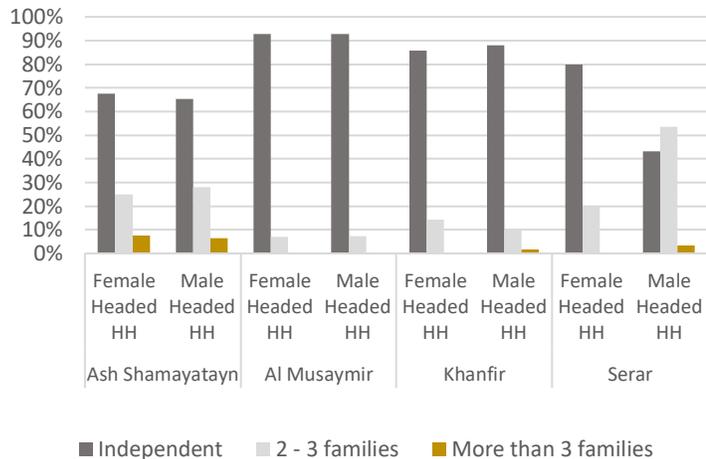


Figure 51 Shelters Independency

8. Human Capital

Human Capital deals with human capabilities, skills, and knowledge. This section is focusing on demonstrating the importance and availability of skills that people within target districts have. Also, this section sheds light on the needed skills for people to better improve their livelihood as well, presenting the type of jobs that respondents work in and giving an idea about the most common job provider within each district.

8.1. Capital Status

Inquiring about the importance and availability of getting new skills, knowledge, or even consultancy by the respondents in a way to improve their capabilities and opportunities to improve their livelihood, the responses gathered from the targeted districts were varied. In Ash Shamayatayn district- Taiz, the average of responses was 2.92 out of 3 as respondents declared that it is essential for them to learn new skills, knowledge or to receive consultancy in a way to enhance their ability to get better work. However, the respondents reported weak availability for capacity building providers within their district as the average of responses was 1.15 out of 3. Also, the importance of such services was not high in the other targeted

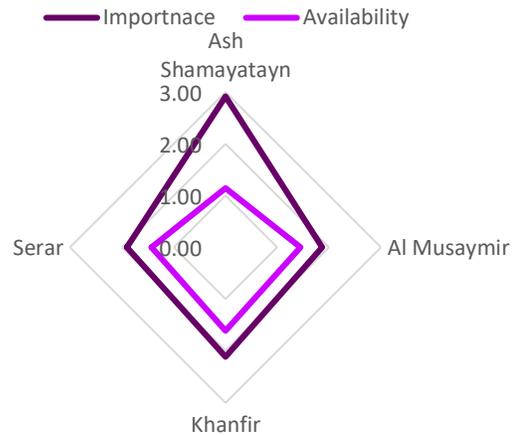


Figure 52 Capital Status

districts as in Khanfir, the average responses were 2.11 out of 3, while the average of responses in Al Musaymir and Serar was lower 1.87 and 1.90 respectively. Likewise, the availability of capacity building providers was low in Khanfir, Al Musaymir, and Serar as the average of responses was 1.61 out of 3 in Khanfir, 1.45 in Al Musaymir, and 1.43 in Serar.

The importance of getting new skills and knowledge is considered quite crucial for Ash Shamayatayn households, and moderate important for Serar and Khanfir households. In contrast, there is a fair availability of providers for capacity building services in the targeted district. As the results showed that the average of household responses about the importance of getting new skills and knowledge was 2.5 out of 3 in Ash Shamayatayn and Khanfir, while it is fair in Serar and Al Musaymir as the average of responses was 1.8 out of 3. Also, the results exposed equitable availability of capacity building providers within the targeted districts as the average of the responses was 1.3 out of 3.

8.2. Ability to Work

In the same context, as shown in Figure 52, the responses gathered demonstrated a gap between the average of family members who can work, yet they do not, and the average of actual working members within each household. In Ash Shamayatayn District-Taiz, the average of the family members who can work was two, while the average of those who can work within the household in Al Musaymir District-Lahj was three persons in each household. The situation in Serar and Khanfir districts -Abyan was not different than it is in Al Musaymir as the average of people having the ability to work within each household was three. Moreover, according to the respondents in Ash Shamayatayn, Al Musaymir, and Khanfir, only one adult of the family members who works. In contrast, in Serar, the respondents reported that the average of working adults within the family is two.

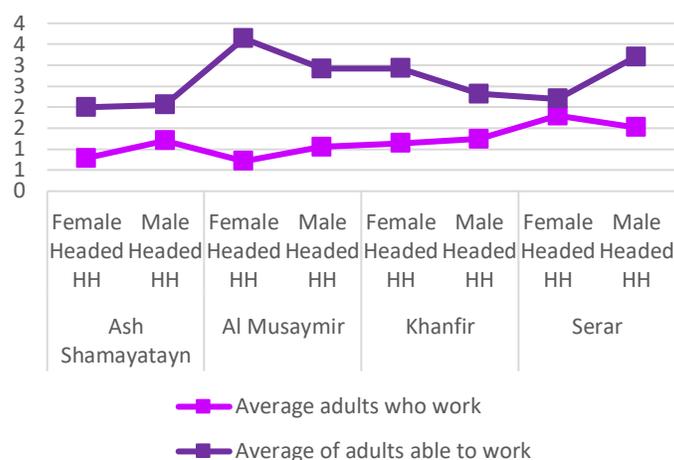


Figure 53 Ability and Availability of Households Adults Members to Work

It is concluded that the number of family members who can find jobs is lower by half of the members who can work, but they cannot find jobs. As the study revealed that the average of family members who can work is three persons in each family, while those who can find jobs and work are one member of each family.

8.3. Type of Practiced Jobs

The types of jobs that family members are practicing within households are varied from one district to another, as shown in Figure 53. In Ash Shamayatayn District- Taiz, the **daily wage activities** were considered the first type of jobs that people practice according to 32% of household female-headed respondents and 30% of household male-headed respondents, followed by **agriculture activities** according to 21% of household female-headed respondents and **owned business** according to 20% of

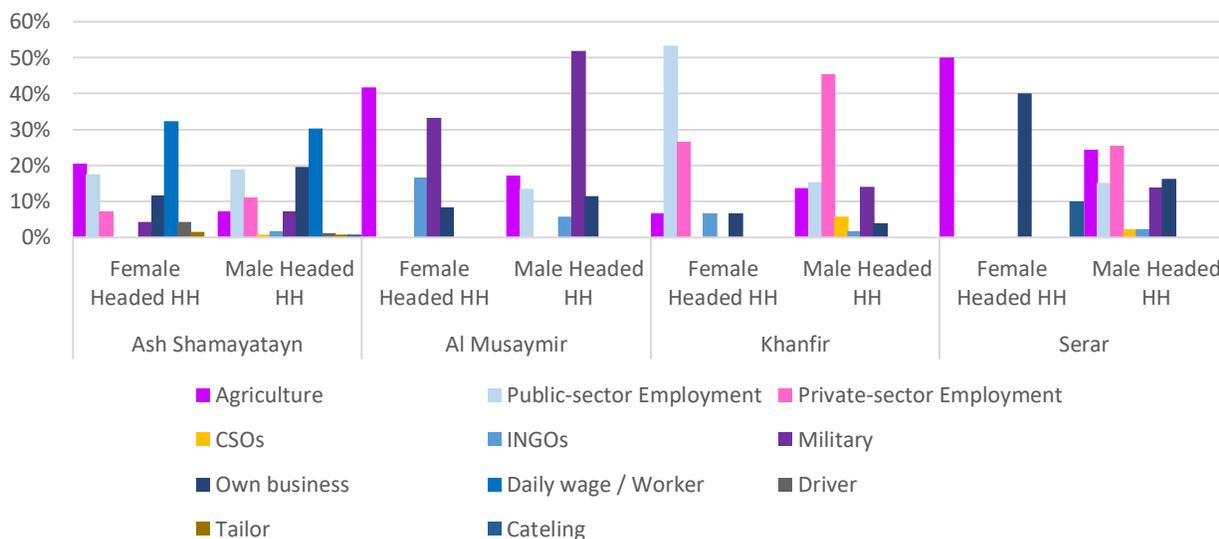


Figure 54 Type of Jobs of Household Members

household male-headed respondents. Also, public-sector employment came in the third most frequent jobs that people work in according to 18% of household female-headed respondents and 19% of household male-headed respondents. The situation is different in Al Musaymir District – Lahj, as the most frequently practiced jobs by household members were **agriculture activities** and **military activities** according to 42% of household female-headed respondents and 52% of household male-headed respondents, respectively. In contrast, the **public sector** and the **private sector** were the most frequent jobs reported by the respondents of Khanfir. According to 53% of household female-headed respondents' public-sector employment is the most frequent job that people work in, whereas 45% of household male-headed respondents reported that the most frequent jobs that people work in are private-sector employment. In Serar, according to 50% of household female-headed respondents, **agriculture activities** are the most joined businesses by the household members, followed by **owned businesses** according to 40% of the female-headed respondents. In contrast, 26% of household male-headed respondents reported **private-sector** employment as most frequently joined jobs and **agriculture activities** as second most affiliated jobs according to 24% of male-headed respondents reported. Also, owned businesses came as the third importance of practiced employment for males, according to 16% of male respondents.

On the other hand, inquiring about the preferred job that household members would like to do in general, the responses of Ash Shamayatayn District-Taiz were different from the southern districts Al Musaymir in Lahj, Khanfir, and Serar in Abyan. As shown in Figure 54, according to 83% of female respondents and 70% of male respondents, the most preferred job category was owning their businesses, unlike Al Musaymir, Khanfir, and Serar, who preferred to work in the public sector. According to 82% of female respondents and 67% of male respondents in Al Musaymir, the preferred job category is public-sector, while 18% of female respondents preferred working with INGOs, and 15% of male respondents preferred to join military activities. It is worth mentioning that Al Musaymir District is the closest district to clashes comparing to Ash Shamayatayn, Khanfir, and Serar, which are working with armed groups or in the military activities, is one of the most preferred and affiliated jobs. In Khanfir District-Abyan, 49% of female respondents preferred to work within the public sector, and 47% of female respondents preferred working with INGOs, while 57% of male respondents preferred working with the public sector, 20% preferred working with the private sector, and 13% preferred to have their businesses. Likewise, 69% of female respondents in Serar District-Abyan, preferred working in a public-sector, 15% preferred working in the private sector, and 15% preferred to possess their businesses. In contrast, 55% of male respondents preferred working in a public-sector, and 40% preferred working in the private sector.

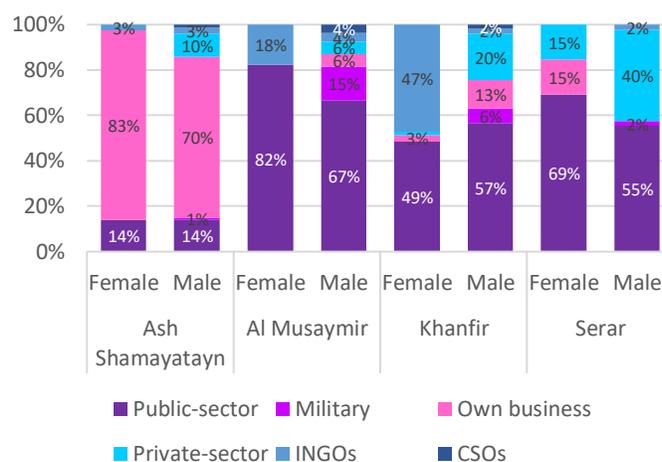


Figure 55 Proffered Job Line

Regarding the job providers within the targeted districts, the responses varied from a district to another. As shown in Figure 55, in Ash Shamayatayn District– Taiz, 47% of female and male respondents reported that the most available work is with the military sector, followed by CSOs according to 24% of female respondents and 22% of male respondents, and INGOs according to 15% of female respondents and 18% of male respondents. Similarly, in Al Musaymir District in Lahj Governorate, 88% of female respondents and 78% of male respondents declared that the military sector is the most job provider in their district. Conversely, the

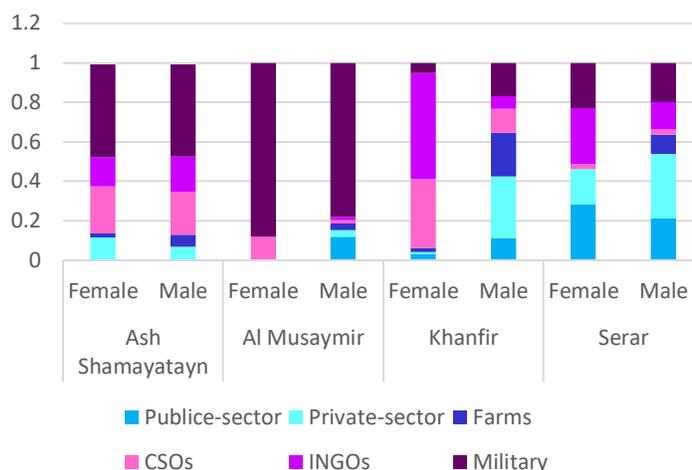


Figure 56 Job Providers

the military sector as a job provider in Khanfir and Serar districts - Abyan is lower than it is in Ash Shamayatayn and Al Musaymir. According to 54% of female respondents in Khanfir, INGOs are considered one of the most existence job providers, followed by CSOs according to 35% of the female respondents, while 31% of male respondents reported the private sector as the primary job provider, followed by farms according to 22% of male respondents and military sector according to 17% of male respondents. In Serar, 28% of female respondents stated that INGOs are considered the primary job provider. In comparison, 28% of female respondents reported that the **public-sector** is considered as the primary job provider, followed by the military sector, according to 23% of female respondents, and private sector, according to 18% of female respondents. In contrast, 33% of male respondents considered the **private sector** as the primary job provider, followed by the public-sector according to 21% of male respondents, and the military sector, according to 20% of male respondents.

A small portion of households from all targeted districts – the majority of them in Ash Shamayatayn- who only prefer to have businesses rather than work for others. The most preferred work lines were working with the public sector, private sector, or with NGOs. However, most of the households in Ash Shamayatayn are practicing daily-wages activities, while households in Al Musaymir are joining military groups. In Khanfir, most of the households are employed either in the public sector or private sector, while in Serar, most of the households working in agricultural activities, own businesses, or employees with the private sector. Also, the most significant job providers are military groups followed by INGOs, the private sector, and the public sector. The results demonstrated that only 37% of total respondents, 82% of them in Ash Shamayatayn, prefer to own businesses rather than being employed, while 50% of respondents from all districts prefer being employed with the public sector. Regarding the real practiced occupations, 23% of total respondents work in agriculture, 17% are employed with the public sector, 15% are employed with the private sector, 16% join the military, and 15% of the total respondents have businesses. Also, the respondents declared that 29% of provided jobs within their communities are provided by military groups, while 21% are provided by INGOs, 17% are provided by the private sector, and 15% by the public sector.

8.4. Skills of the Households

Skills are one of the assessed assets of human capital. As shown in Figure 56, the skills discussed in this regard divided into two types 1) Managerial Skills such as (Financial, Marketing, Communication, and Administration skills), 2) Technical Skills such as (Handicrafts: that are made of necessary materials) or Vocational Skills that are related more to professions such as Maintenance, Carpentry, or Plumbing). The respondents were inquired about the type of skills that they need to develop, as shown in Figure 59. In Ash Shamayatayn District - Taiz, 33% of female respondents stated that they need to develop and acquire gain

vocational skills, 30% of female respondents said they need to know more about handcraft skills, and 12% stated that they need to learn more about financial skills. Likewise, 37% of male respondents said that they need to develop and gain vocational skills, 19% reported respondents in need to develop their handcraft skills, and 14% declared that they need to learn more about financial skills. In Al Musaymir District- Lahj, 54% of female respondents reported their need to learn more about handcraft skills, and 33% said their needs to develop their vocational skills. Also, 41% of male respondents stated that they need to develop and gain more about handcraft skills, 18% of male respondents need to improve their communication skills, and 13% need to develop their financial capabilities. Also, in Khanfir District - Abyan, 45% of female respondents stated that they need to gain skills and knowledge about vocational skills, and 36% reported they need to develop their handcraft skills.

In contrast, 34% of male respondents declared that they need to gain knowledge and develop their vocational skills, 20% need to improve their communication skills, and 20% of male respondents are in need to develop their handcraft skills. Similarly, in Serar District - Abyan, 73% of female respondents need to improve their vocational skills, 13% in need to develop their handcraft skills, and 13% in need to gain more knowledge and develop the marketing skills. In comparison, 37% of male respondents stated their need to develop more vocational skills, 32% need to develop handcraft skills, and 11% in need to gain more knowledge and develop marketing skills.

As the targeted households were from rural who are not highly educated, most of the targeted households prefer to gain and learn more vocational skills, such as maintenance, and prefer to gain more skills about handicrafts made at home, such as accessories. As the results showed that 37% of total respondents

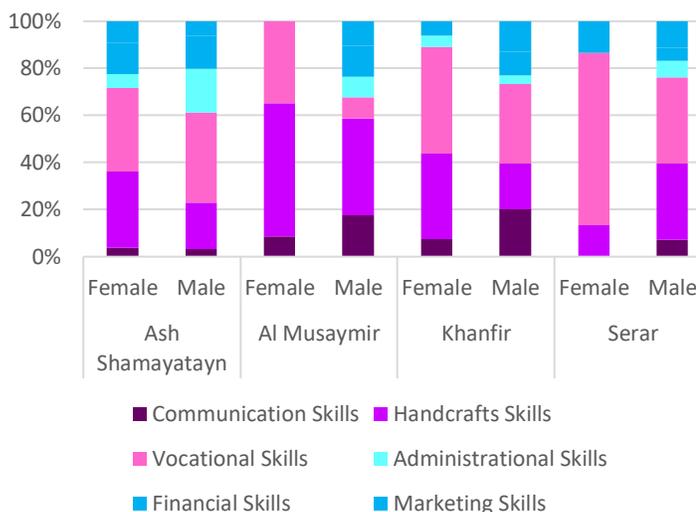


Figure 57 Needed Skills by the Households

prefer to learn more vocational skills, and 32% are eager to learn more handicraft skills, while only 11% of the total respondents expressed their determination to learn about marketing skills.

8.5. Challenges of Capacity Building

In the same context, this Baseline study attempted to understand the challenges facing the respondents regarding capacity building activities within their districts, as shown in Figure 57. In Ash Shamayatayn District - Taiz, 53% of female respondents stated that the lack of support is one of the main challenges facing building their capacity, 29% reported that there is a lack of capacity building providers in their district, and 11% declared that tradition is one of the main challenges facing of building the capacity of the respondents, especially for females. Similarly, 54% of male respondents stated that lack of support is the main challenge they face, and 27% reported the unavailability of the service providers is one of the challenges they encounter, and 11% said the traditions are considered one of the main challenges they face. Likewise, in Al Musaymir District-Taiz, the lack of support was considered the foremost challenge, according to 61% of female and male respondents. In comparison, 32% of female respondents believe the lack of capacity building providers is a primary challenge, and 23% of male respondents stated traditions as one of the main challenges they face. In Khanfir District- Abyan, the traditions were considered the main challenge facing women according to 51% of female respondents, while 37% of respondents stated that the main challenge was lack of support. In Serar District- Abyan, 34% of female respondents reported traditions as one of the main challenges, 31% stated the lack of training providers as one of the main challenges, and 28% declared lack of support as one of the main challenges. In contrast, 55% of male respondents said traditions are considered as the main challenge, followed by lack of support according to 20% of respondents, and 14% of respondents reported lack of time as one of the main challenges they face.

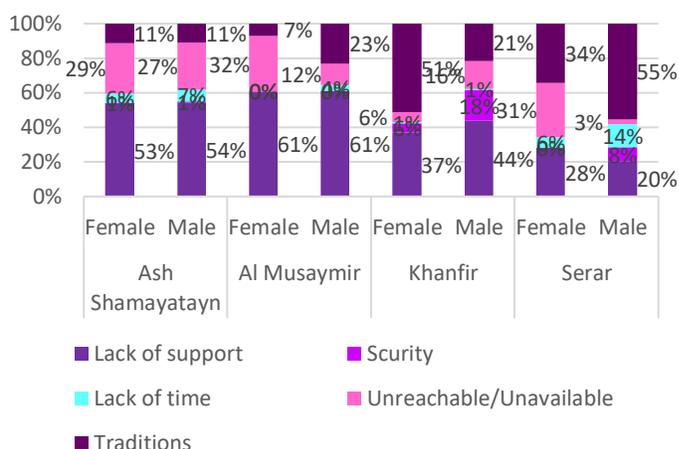


Figure 58 Challenges Faced Capacity Building

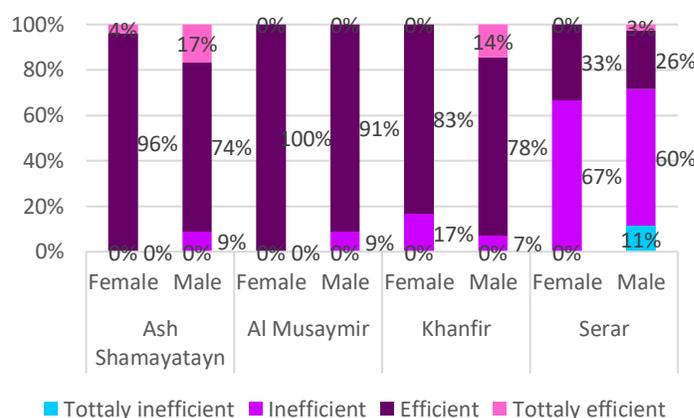


Figure 59 Efficiency of Capacity Building Providers

Concerning if the available capacity-building providers are efficient, the majority of Ash Shamayatayn, Al Musaymir, and Khanfir respondents declared that the capacity building providers in their districts are skilled. However, the majority of Serar respondents stated that the capacity building providers are not efficient according to 67% of female respondents and 71% of male respondents.

The main challenges that hinder households from building their capacity are lack of support as they cannot afford capacity building fees and the unavailability of capacity building providers within their

communities. Also, traditions constrain women in particular from being learned or acquiring new skills. As the results illustrated that 45% of the respondents could not afford the capacity building fees, while 20% declared that the unavailability of capacity building providers within their communities is considered a challenge. In comparison, 27% of respondents stated that traditions are considered as one of the main constraints facing them to learn or acquire new skills, especially for women.

8.6. Disability Status within the Household

Only 11% of the respondents, as shown in Figure 59, reported the existence of disabilities conditions within their households. The reported disabilities are categorized as physical, mental, visual, hearing, or speaking abilities. The majority of reported disabilities were physical; in Ash Shamayatayn, 11% of the respondents reported physical disabilities. Also, in Al Musaymir and Khanfir, 6% and 3% respectively of respondents reported a physical disability; however, in Serar, all the disabilities reported were mental, which comprise 9% of the total respondents in Serar.

It is worth mentioning that 5% of the reported disabilities were female breadwinners, while 13% of the reported disabilities were male breadwinners. Al Musaymir district comes first of whom have breadwinners with disability conditions, as 20% of the reported disability conditions in Al Musaymir were female breadwinners, and 40% of the stated disability conditions in Al Musaymir were male breadwinners.

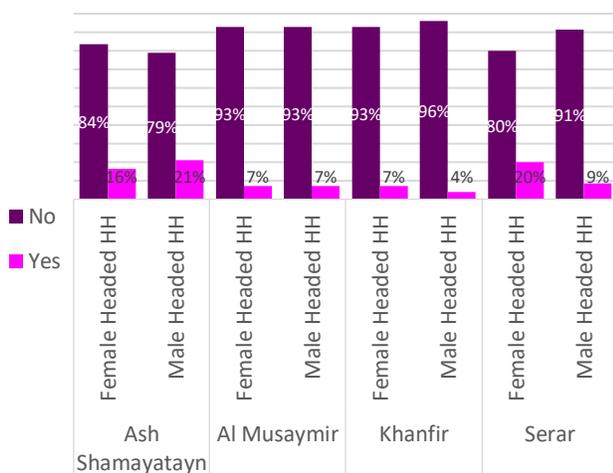


Figure 61 Disability Availability

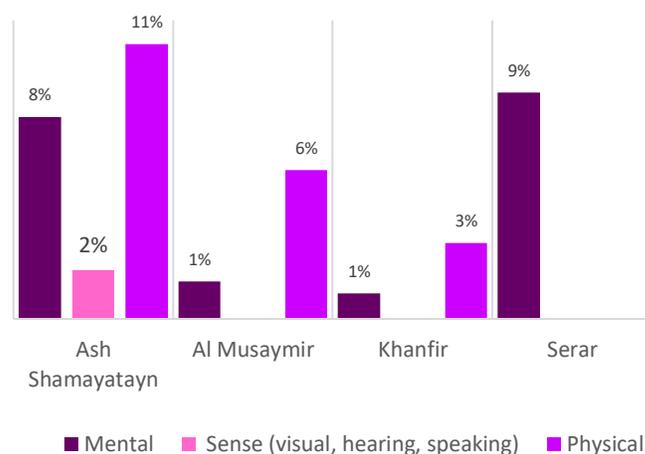


Figure 61 Type of Disability

8.7. Community Role in Building Capacities, Services, and Employment

Despite the current trend in which funds go to humanitarian and relief projects, the community in Ash Shamayatayn District- Taiz, still to some extent not neglecting the capacity building of their community members regarding computer skills, human development, tailoring, first aid courses, and hairdressing. All these capacity-building efforts are local initiatives, and because of the current war, these initiatives are limited. However, IDPs are not included in local community capacity building activities, according to community committee members in Al Aza'ez.

The challenges that face the community members in Ash Shamayatayn in terms of providing support for their communities are mainly due to the lack of financial capabilities due to the current situation. Also, there is an increased need for various support, which is considered a big challenge for INGOs and any other related supporting entities.

“No one thinks of building capacity interventions; the government and the organizations' interventions focused on humanitarian relief, food, and health.”

Nashwan Abdulsalam – local council member – Ash Shamayatayn, Taiz

In the same context, in Al Musaymir District- Lahj, there is a lack of local initiatives for capacity building interventions as the community face many economic and security challenges. Also, they lack awareness about the importance of education, which consequently makes the community depend only on external support from other districts or governorates. For instance, university students prefer to join armed groups instead of continuing their education due to financial needs. Also, the transportation between Al Musaymir villages is not safe in addition to the far distance and rough roads between them that caused most women to not continue in learning as well as the strict norms of the local community which prevent women from making any initiatives on their communities.

In Khanfir District- Abyan, the local community also faces a lack of awareness toward the importance of capacity building; moreover, they lack financial support. However, local CSOs with limited resources perform capacity building interventions on varying periods. Many challenges face the local community in providing support for their community due to conflicts, which in return, affect the security and economic situation of the community that leads to an increasing in the unemployment rates.

“The main challenges we face are the armed conflicts, in addition to the administrative corruption, local tribal conflicts, and lack of follow up from the support providers.”

Abdulhakeem Awzer – Manager of technical secretary administration – Khanfir, Abyan

In Serar District-Abyan, there are no initiatives for capacity building. Also, people in Serar lack financial resources and qualification competency besides the lack of proper infrastructure for such initiatives. Moreover, the district suffers complicated transportation means. The depressing economic situation of the local community is a challenge for providing capacity-building support to the local communities. Furthermore, according to a teacher from Qardh Village, lack of awareness and educational institutions are challenges as there is no secondary school in the area despite population density. Moreover, women are restricted from continuing their education due to local community norms.

9. Financial Capital

The Financial Capital in this study tackles the financial ability of people to have a better livelihood. The status of people’s income, expenses, and loans are considered the primary factors of Financial Capital. This section sheds light on the households’ financial capabilities; also, understanding the financial burdens in front of households in the targeted districts.

9.1. Capital Status

Inquiring about the importance versus availability of most common income sources in Ash Shamayatayn District- Taiz, respondents revealed convergent importance for different income sources. However, Remittances, Livestock, and Agriculture were considered the top three most crucial income sources Ash Shamayatayn has. It demonstrated that there is a gap between importance and availability. The average of answers was below two on a scale of three for the availability of money transfer, agriculture, and livestock. Moreover, the respondents believed in the importance of Beekeeping as a source of income, yet it is rarely practiced in Ash Shamayatayn. Likewise, the respondents of Khanfir District- Abyan, considered Remittances, Livestock, Agriculture, as well as Zakat and the existence of Microfinance institutions as the essential sources that improve households’ incomes. Although income sources such as Remittances, Zakat, Livestock, and the presence of Microfinance institutions are considered crucial for the respondents, yet there is a weak availability of them in Khanfir as the average answers about the availability were below two on a scale of three. However, Zakat and Agriculture were reported as the most available sources in Khanfir.

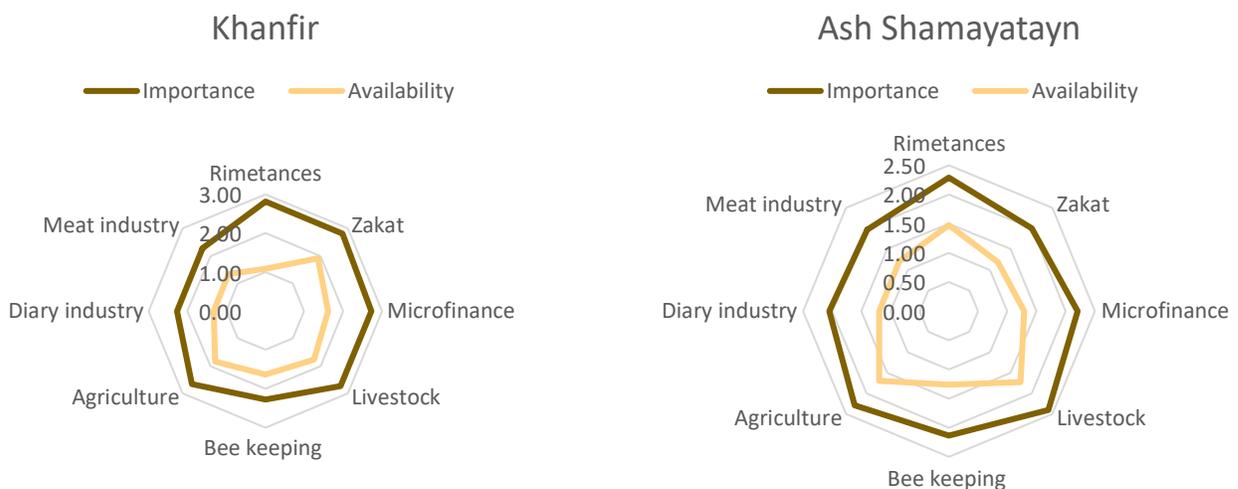


Figure 62 Financial Capital Status - Khanfir & Ash Shamayatayn

In Serar District- Abyan, the respondents reported the Remittances, Livestock, Agriculture, Beekeeping, Zakat, and the existence of Microfinance institutions as essential sources that help in improving households' income resources in their districts. However, the respondents reported a high average answer for the availability of Remittances in their district (2.70 out of 3), followed by Agriculture and Livestock activities. The status in Al Musaymir District- Lahj, is not entirely different. Nonetheless, Zakat is considered by the respondents as the most crucial source of income, followed by Livestock, Agriculture, and Beekeeping activities. Also, the respondents of Al Musaymir reported that the most available sources in their district are Zakat and Livestock activities.



Figure 63 Financial Capital Status - Al Musaymir & Serar

On the other hand, the respondents from all targeted districts are living on **USD 6 per household** on a daily base, which makes them more vulnerable. However, Serar District in Abyan Governorate is less susceptible than Khanfir in Abyan Governorate, Ash Shamayatayn in Taiz Governorate, and Al Musaymir in Lahj Governorate, as Serar respondents who reported that they live on USD 6 per day was 85% comparing to 98% in Khanfir, 96% in Ash Shamayatayn, and 93% in Al Musaymir District.

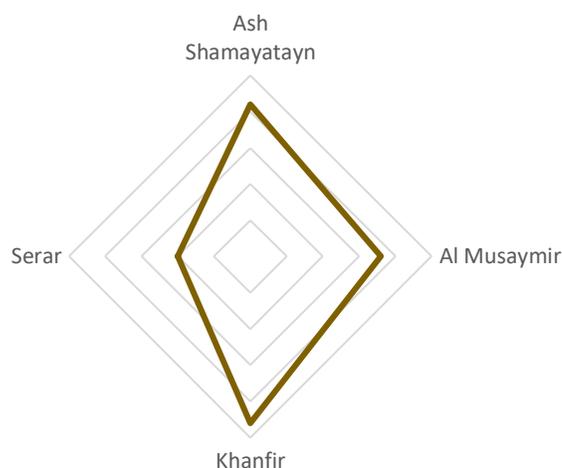


Figure 64 Households who Live on less than \$6 a day

The households relied more on Remittances, Livestock, Agriculture, and Zakat to improve their income. Also, the existence of Microfinance institutions is considered a valuable asset that might help households to enhance their income. However, Livestock and Agriculture are the most available assets in the targeted districts. Moreover, most of the households interviewed in the targeted districts live on USD 6 per day.

The results exposed that the average of responses, 2.4 out of 3, for Remittances, Livestock, Agriculture, and Zakat as essential assets supporting the improvement of households' income. However, the average

of the responses was 1.8 out of 3 for Livestock and Agriculture availability, and 1.5 out of 3 for Zakat and Remittances.

9.2. Income and Expenses³

This Baseline study tried to understand the citizens' status regarding the income and expenses in the targeted districts. Understanding citizens' status will help in providing well-designed interventions that suit the environment of each district.

9.3. Income Status

Regarding the income sources, the gathered responses of this Baseline demonstrated varied sources from one district to another, as shown in Figure 64. In Ash Shamayatayn District - Taiz, the most common source of income was the **daily-wage activities** according to 44% of respondents, followed by the **assistance received from others** according to 26% of responses, while there is **less dependence on government salaries** according to 18% of the respondents. The status is similar to Khanfir District - Abyan, as 45% of responses reported the **daily-wage activities** as the most common source of income. However, the situation in Serar District- Abyan was different, as the most frequent source of income reported by 30% of the respondents was **owned businesses**, followed by **government salaries** according to 21% of the respondents, and 19% for the **daily-wage activities**. In Al Musaymir District - Lahj, **Government salaries** were the most common source of income according to 53% of the respondents, followed with **daily-wage activities** according to 27% of the responses.

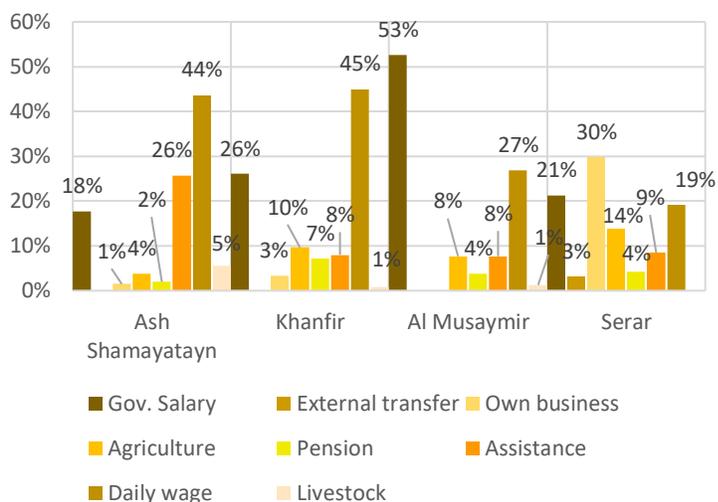


Figure 65 Income Sources

³ All the USD amounts were based on the exchange rate of USD 1 = YER 600

In the same context, the income of people in the targeted districts, as shown in Figure 65, was between YER 30,000 – YER 105,000 that approximately equal USD 50-175. Ash Shamayatayn and Khanfir districts recorded the least average amount gained in a monthly base, as the average amount is YER 45,490 and YER 41,626, respectively, that roughly equal USD 75. In the same context, the average income of Serar District-Abyan is higher than Khanfir and Ash Shamayatayn with YER 76,992, which equals about USD 128. Unlike Ash Shamayatayn, Khanfir, and Serar, Al Musaymir District- Lahj respondents reported the highest income average among the targeted districts with YER 82,650 that nearly equals USD 138.

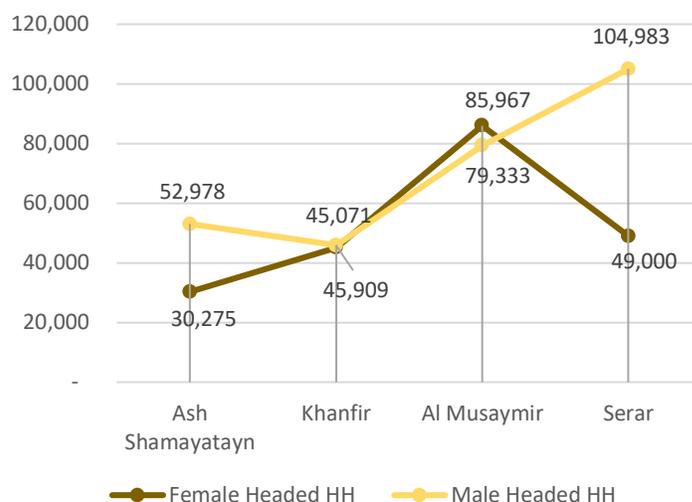


Figure 66 Income Amount

The reason why Serar and Al Musaymir districts have higher average income than Ash Shamayatayn and Khanfir is that sources of income are more derived from **owned businesses** and **government salaries** that are considered more stable than the **daily-wage activities**. Moreover, the respondents of the targeted governorates were asked if they make savings or lending others that may be considered as an income resource. The majority of the respondents from all districts reported their inability to make savings or to lend others as their average monthly income is around USD 104, which equals USD 3.75 per day for each family. However, who reported that they lend others around 15% of respondents in Ash Shamayatayn, 14% in Khanfir, and 6% in Al Musaymir declared that the average amounts they borrow monthly reach YER 11,861, that equals around USD 20. Also, only 12% of respondents in Ash Shamayatayn, 17% in Khanfir, and 4% in Al Musaymir reported that they make monthly savings but not exceeding YER 17,820, which equals USD 30.

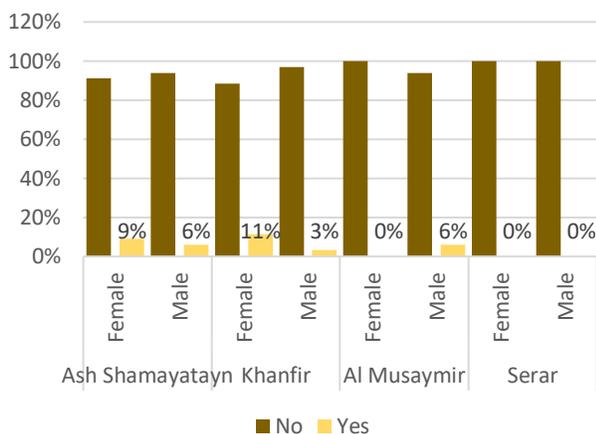


Figure 68 Lending Others

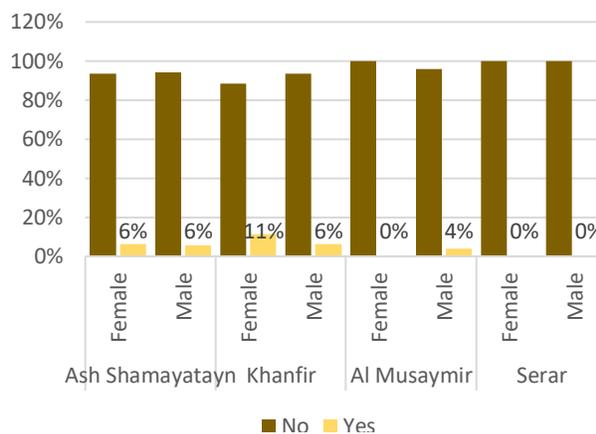


Figure 68 Making Savings

The most reliable income sources for the households in the targeted districts were Government Salaries, Businesses Returns, Daily-Wages activities, and Assistance from others. Also, the households in the targeted districts cannot make savings, neither lending others as they live with around USD 100 per month. As the results demonstrated that 34% of households rely on daily-wages activities to generate their income, 29% rely on government salaries, 12% of households rely on business returns, and 12% rely on assistance provided by others. Also, 94% of respondents cannot make savings, neither lending others.

9.4. Expenditures Items

Respondents from target districts spent their money on several similar items with some variation from a district to another. The households reported that they spent their money mostly on Food, Health, and Water. In Ash Shamayatayn District – Taiz, the respondents reported Food as the most consumed item according to 24% of the respondents, followed with Health and Water in parallel due to 21% of the responses. Education and buying Clothes came as fourth and fifth in the priority scale of Ash Shamayatayn households' responses according to 17% and 15% respectively of responses.

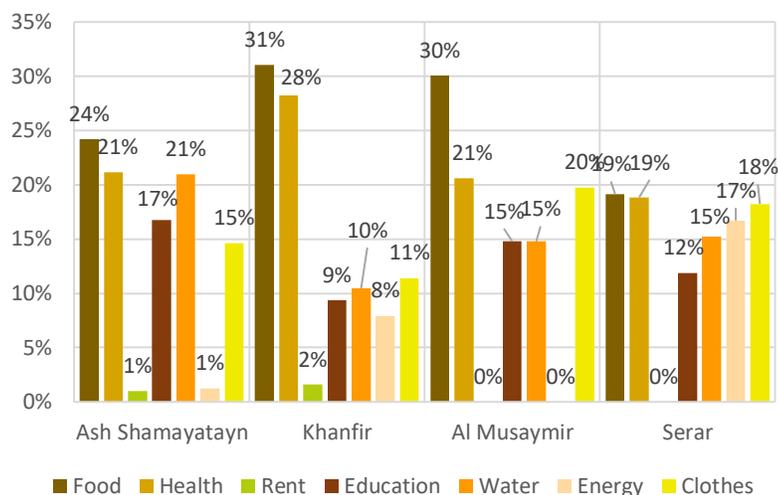


Figure 69 Expenses Items

As shown in Figure 68, Food and Health were considered the highest priority for people in Khanfir and Serar District-Abyan and Al Musaymir District- Lahj. In Khanfir, the respondents reported Food as the most consumed item according to 31% of responses, followed by Health according to 28% of respondents. Buying Clothes came in the fourth priority, and Water in the fifth priority of Khanfir households. Moreover, in Serar District – Abyan, the households' most needed items were equivalent to some extent with other districts, as Food and Health considered as a top priority according to 19% of responses. Buying Clothes is considered one of the most frequent items household spend on according to 18% of respondents.

Moreover, Energy is considered as one of the top items that households spend on according to 17% of responses, as same as Water according to 15% of responses. In contrast, only 12% of respondents reported that they spend money on Education. In Al Musaymir, Food considered the top priority according to 30% of responses, followed by Health according to 21% of responses, and third was Buying Clothes due to 20% of responses, while Education and Water were fourth priority according to 15% of responses.

9.5. Expenditures Amount

Regarding the monthly spending amount on the most needed items, the responses varied from a district to district, as shown in Figure 69. Al Musaymir and Serar respondents reported the highest expenditures among the targeted districts. In Al Musaymir Districts- Lahj, the average amount of monthly spending on needed household needed items was **YER 104,744** (around **USD 175**). Also, the average amount of monthly expenses on the household items required in Serar District – Abyan is **YER 111,000** (around **USD 185**). In

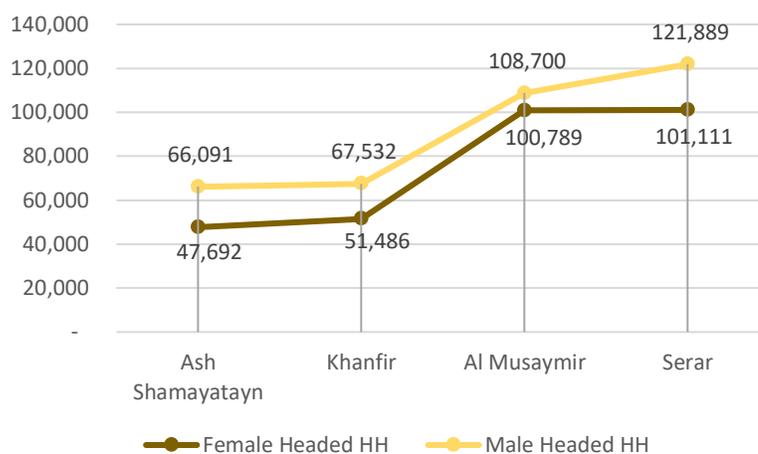


Figure 70 Household Expenditures Amount

contrast, the average amount of monthly spends on the household needed items in Khanfir District- Abyan is **YER 59,509**, which equals around **USD 99**. Also, the average amount of monthly spends on the household items required in Ash Shamayatayn District- Taiz is **YER 56,891**, which equals **USD 95**.

It is worth mentioning that Serar and Al Musaymir districts reporting the highest income rates as well as expenses rates, which indicate that the more households earned, the more they spent.

Continuously, the respondents of the Baseline were inquired if they have debts, and the average of total responses was 73% who reported that they are in debt. In Serar District, the average amount of debts reported by all respondents was **YER 395,079** (around **USD 658**), while the average amount of debts in Ash Shamayatayn is **YER 275,010**. In contrast, the average amount of debts in Al Musaymir was **YER 96,449** (around **USD 161**), while the average amount of debts reported by all Khanfir respondents was **YER 82,704**, which equals **USD 138**. As same as expenses, the respondents said that they borrowed mainly to cover the livelihood needs, such as Food and Health, as a top priority. In Ash Shamayatayn, Food and Health are considered a priority according to 34% of responses, followed by Education due to 14% of responses, and Clothes according to 11% of the responses. Likewise, Al Musaymir respondents reported that they borrow to cover their needs of Food and Health according to 38% and 39% of responses, respectively. Also, the respondents borrow to buy Cloths and pay Education fees according to 13% and 10% of responses. The respondents of Serar and Khanfir District- Abyan also borrowed to buy water. In Khanfir, respondents considered Food and Health as a top priority according to 37% and 36% of responses. Furthermore, respondents reported that they borrow to buy Clothes and Water according to 10% and 9% of responses. Similarly, Serar respondents reported Health and Food as a top priority that caused them to be in debt according to 26% and 24% of responses, followed by Clothes, Water, and Education according to 18%, 15%, and 14% of responses respectively.

As a result, Food and Health are still the primary concern of households in the targeted districts, followed by Clothes and Water, with less attention to Education.

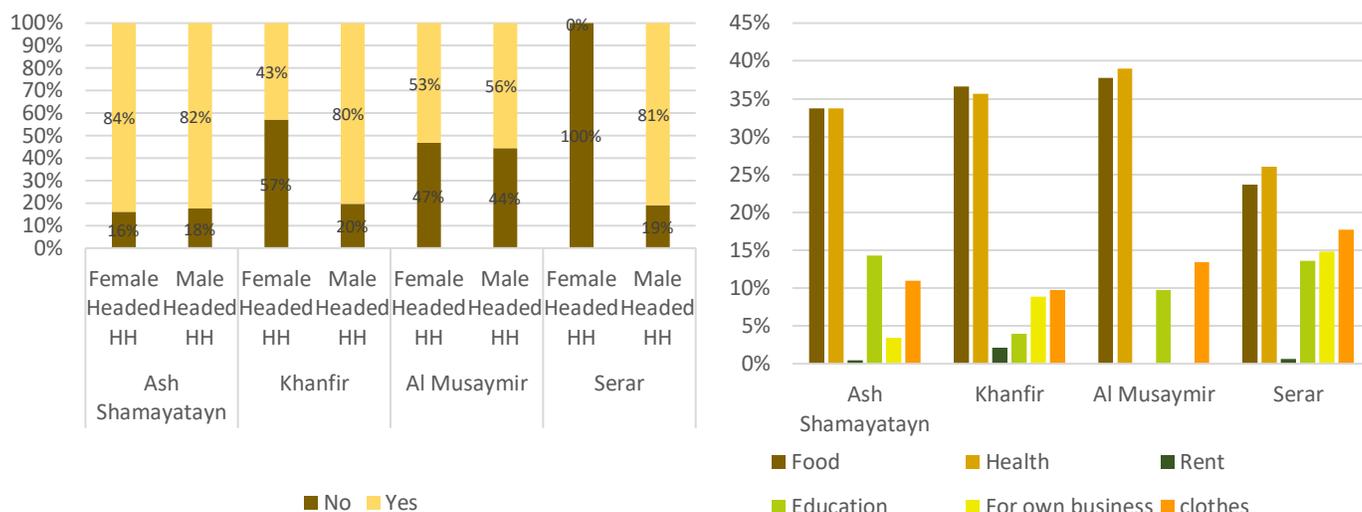


Figure 71 Debts Status and Reasons

The household's maximum expenditures are spent on Food, Health, Education, Water, and Cloths. The majority of the targeted households are in debt to cover their need from Food, Health, and Cloths. Also, the household's monthly expenditures amount is around USD 150.

The results exposed the highest household expenditures items are food according to 26% of the respondents, 22% on health, 16% on clothes, 15% on water, and 13% on education. Also, 77% of respondents are in debt, whereas 88% of respondents borrow to cover health care fees, 74% borrow to buy food, and 57% borrow to buy clothes.

9.6. Presence of Microfinance Institutions

Regarding the ability of citizens in the targeted districts to get loans, the majority of respondents reported that it is not easy to get a loan, except 57% of female respondents and 49% of male respondents in Ash

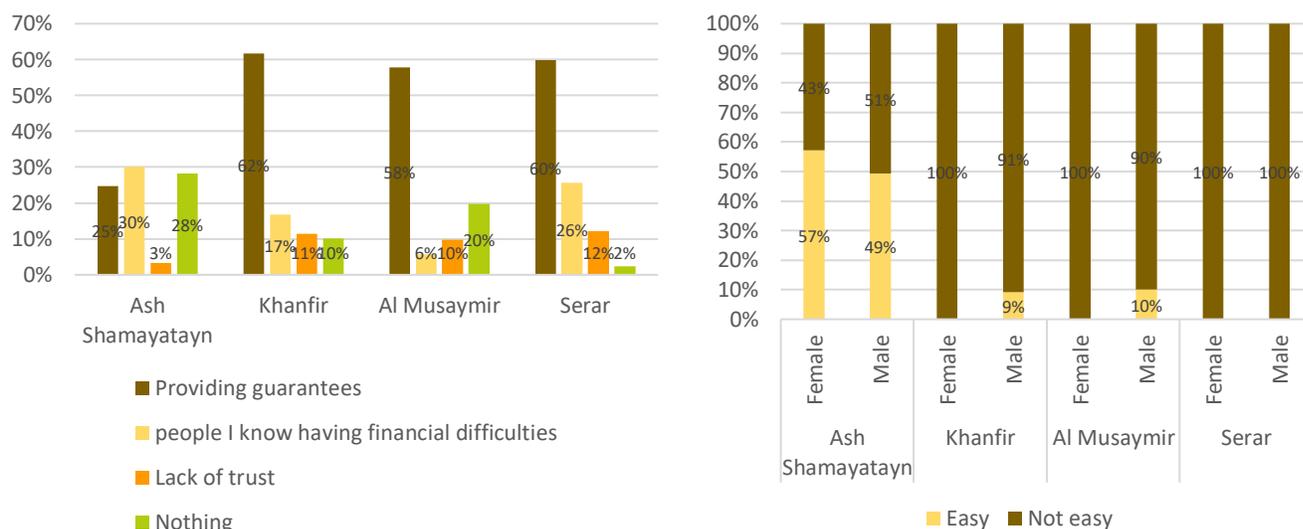


Figure 72 Accessibility and Challenges to Loans

Shamayatayn District. The reasons behind these hardships of getting loans varied from one district to another. The main challenge facing households to get loans was the difficulty of providing collaterals as well as the current ongoing war that makes it difficult to lend others, which justifies the reason why around 77% of the total respondents were not willing to get loans whether from Microfinance institutions or individuals.

In the same context, the respondents were questioned about the availability of Microfinance Institutions-MFIs in their districts, as shown in Figure 72, the responses of both Al Musaymir and Serar districts were 100% that there is no existence of MFIs. In comparison, only 21% of Ash Shamayatayn respondents and 19% of Khanfir respondents reported the presence of MFIs in their districts. The respondents were asked about the preferred source for getting loans, as shown in Figure 73, 100% of female responses and 82% of male responses in Ash Shamayatayn preferred the MFIs, and 14% of male responses preferred borrowing money from friends. In Khanfir, 50% of female respondents prefer borrowing from family members, and 50% prefer borrowing from friends, while 67% of male respondents prefer to lend from MFIs. In Al Musaymir, 100% of female respondents and 60% of male respondents prefer to borrow from MFIs, while 40% of male respondents preferring friends as a source of loans. In Al Musaymir, 100% of female respondents and 60% of male respondents prefer to borrow from MFIs, while 40% of male respondents preferring friends as a source of loans.

Regarding Serar respondents, 70% of male respondents and 53% of female respondents preferred to borrow from friends, while 47% of female respondents and 20% of male respondents prefer borrowing from family members. Only 10% of Serar male respondents preferred to borrow from MFIs. It is worth mentioning that the MFIs are not available on the sub-district level, but they are available on the district level, which makes it hard for households in some sub-districts to visit the district center.

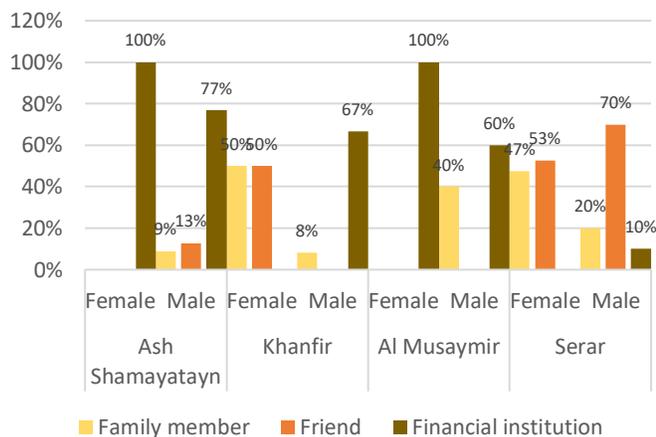


Figure 73 Preferred Source for Loans

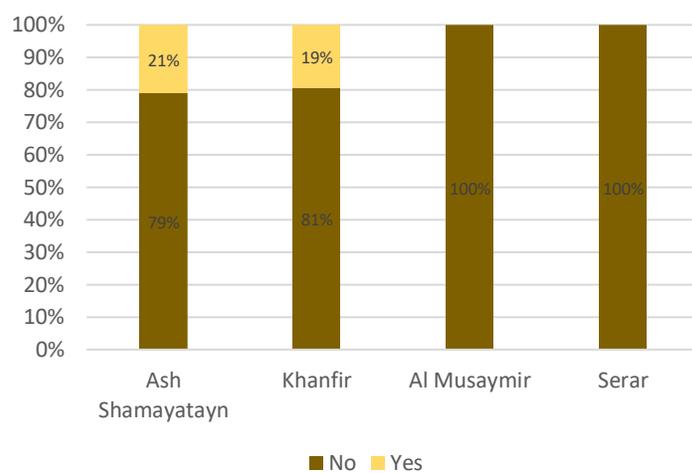


Figure 74 Availability of Microfinance Institutions

The primary assets households own, as shown in Figure 74, are houses, livestock, or lands. Such assets make it difficult for households to use to establish a business or to provide as collateral for having loans; this is why households preferred not to go to MFIs for getting loans. However, 79% of total respondents have houses that they are living in, 30% having livestock, and 24% having lands for their food needs, not for trading.

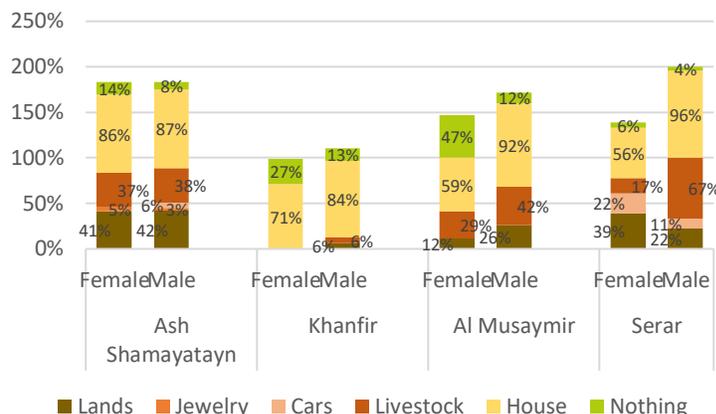


Figure 75 Owned Assets by Households

There is poor existence of Microfinance Institutions- MFIs on the sub-district level as well as households hesitate to get loans as they cannot provide necessary guarantees, yet is considered the most favorable source of loans for households in Ash Shamayatayn, Khanfir, and Al Musaymir, but not for Serar households as they prefer to borrow money from friends or family members.

The results revealed that only 17% of respondents who reported the existence of MFIs in their communities. Also, 84% of respondents stated that it is not easy to reach one of the MFIs, and 51% of respondents found it challenging to provide the required guarantees to get loans.

9.7. Establishing Businesses

Regarding households' intention to start-up businesses, as shown in Figure 76, the majority, 95% of respondents in Ash Shamayatayn and 97% in Khanfir, expressed their desire to establish businesses to generate incomes. In comparison, only 58% of Al Musaymir District respondents and 18% of Serar District respondents expressed their intention to start-up businesses. The intention of respondents to start-up businesses faced by some challenges. The lack of capital to start up a business was considered a primary challenge, according to 68% of the total responses in all targeted districts.

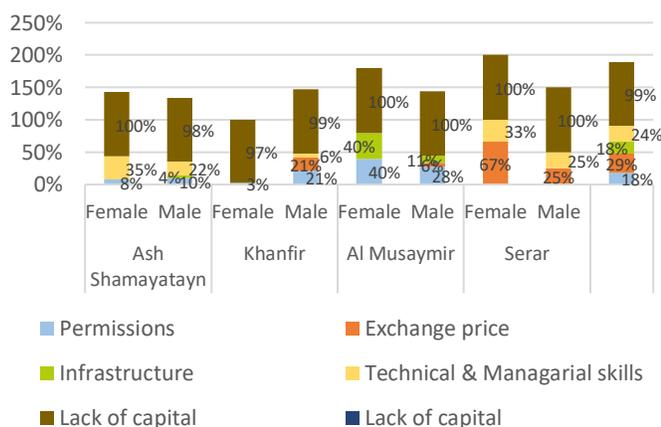


Figure 77 Challenges of Starting-up Businesses

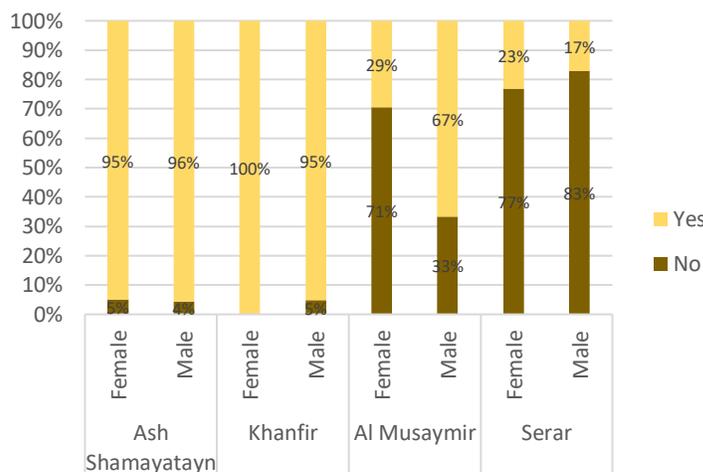


Figure 77 Intention to Start-up Business

Consequently, the respondents reported a variety of preferred business sectors, as shown in Figure 77; in Ash Shamayatayn District- Taiz, 30% of female respondents preferred **tailoring** as a business, 20% preferred to work in **grocery**, 14% preferred to work in **handicraft activities**, and 10% reported that they prefer to work in **clothes selling**. On the other hand, 20% of male respondents prefer to work in **grocery**, 15% prefer to work in **handicraft activities**, 14% declared that they prefer working in **livestock activities**, 14% prefer working in **tailoring activities**, and 11% prefer to work in **clothes selling**.

For female respondents in Al Musaymir District in Lahj Governorate, 38% prefer to work in **clothes selling**, 25% prefer to work in **beekeeping**, and 25% prefer to work **livestock activities**. In contrast, 40% of male respondents prefer to work in **clothes selling**, 17% prefer to work in **livestock activities**, 17% prefer to work in **beekeeping activities**, and 13% prefer to work in **handicraft activities**.

In Khanfir District - Abyan, 35% of female respondents prefer working in **tailoring**, 25% prefer to work in **clothes selling**, 21% prefer to work in **livestock activities**, and 18% prefer to work in **handicraft activities**. While 54% of male respondents prefer to work in **livestock activities**, 14% **handicraft activities**, 10% prefer to work in **tailoring**, and 6% prefer to work in **beekeeping activities**. In Serar District- Abyan, 33% of female respondents prefer to work in **tailoring activities**, 33% prefer to work in **handicraft activities**, 22% prefer to work in **beekeeping activities**, and 11% prefer to work in **livestock activities**. In contrast, 24% of male respondents prefer working in **tailoring**, 24% prefer to work in **beekeeping activities**, 14% prefer to work in **clothes selling**, 14% prefer to work in **livestock activities**, and 10% prefer to work in **food processing activities**.

There is an apparent intention for households to establish businesses, especially in Ash Shamayatayn, Khanfir, and Al Musaymir districts, but not Serar households. However, what hinders households from creating a business is the lack of capital. Also, the most favorable sectors by the households are: 1) Tailoring, 2) Grocery, 3) Handicraft activities, 4) Selling Cloths, 5) Livestock activities, and 5) Beekeeping activities. The results showed that 84% of the respondents have the intention to start their businesses, yet 68% of the respondents stated that the main constrain to start their businesses is the lack of capital. Around 21% of respondents prefer to work in livestock, 17% in tailoring, 14% in handicrafts, and 13% in cloths selling.

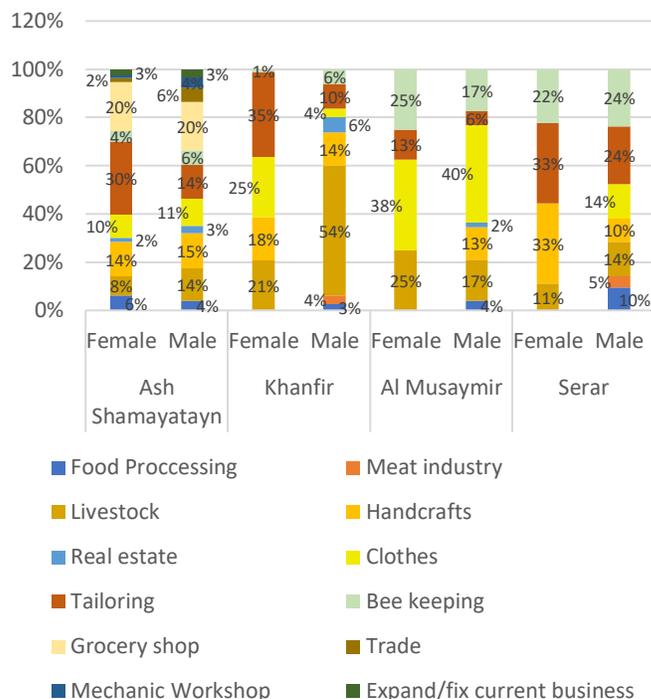


Figure 78 Preferred Business Sector

10. Recommendations

1. Social Capital

- 1.1. Supporting capacity building and networking among 1) Community Committees, 2) Parents Council, 3) Village Council, 4) CSOs, and 5) Social Figures to fulfill their roles in conflict resolution, services delivery, community development plans, and reducing their vulnerability.
- 1.2. Taking actions to increase the engagement of women in community networks.
- 1.3. Considering the development of inter-community cooperation councils to strengthen relations between neighboring villages.
- 1.4. Providing financial resources or related income support to help the host communities to support IDPs and marginalized people.
- 1.5. Identifying the causes of low participation in community networks and taking appropriate actions, such as training or counseling workshops to increase participation
- 1.6. Strengthening dispute resolution mechanisms by building on what is working already, including but going beyond Sheikhs, Social Figures, and Community Committees.

2. Natural Capital.

- 2.1. 2.1. Support the development and build the capacity of local water and land management community councils to enhance equitable access to natural resources.
- 2.2. Identifying existing natural hazards (including Drought and Rain Torrents/Streaming) management mechanisms, supporting those that be redeemed, and building new tools to replace those that are defunct.
- 2.3. Supporting agricultural diversification and intensification based on seasonal calendars.

3. Physical Capital.

- 3.1. Enhancing investment in appropriate mechanisms, including community-based cash for assets programs to build Central Markets, Hospitals, Sanitation, Roads, and Energy facilities.
- 3.2. Seeking to develop partnership arrangements between local authorities' efforts and community committee efforts in building/rebuilding physical assets.
- 3.3. Using the local authorities/community committee partnership arrangements to improve service provision.

4. Human Capital.

- 4.1. Increasing the capacity of existing TVET providers to help community members acquire the skills they need to get jobs or create small businesses.
- 4.2. An intensive effort is needed to create livelihood opportunities in all relevant sectors, whether in agriculture, small and micro-business development, apprentices, handicraft, sewing/dressmaking, food, etc.
- 4.3. Working with local NGOs whose gender-sensitive skills to address norms and traditions which prevent women from working where they wish to work.

5. Financial Capital.

- 5.4. Supporting the development of Livestock and Agricultural Development as essential sources of income.
- 5.5. Encouraging the use and growth of MFIs, but developing guidelines which ensure that MFI services include moderate interest rates, training, incentives for savings, and links to business development skills.
- 5.6. Using 3X6 and other similar mechanisms to encourage business development.