



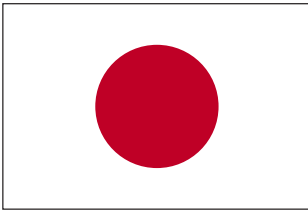
From
the People of Japan



YEMEN LIVELIHOOD AND HUMAN SECURITY

IMPACT ASSESSMENT 2017-2019





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Submitted by:



Adnan.qatinah@afcar.net
www.Afcar.net

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IMPACT

ASSESSMENT

2017-2019

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For further information, please contact:

ARVIND KUMAR

Project Manager
Yemen Livelihood & Human Security Project
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Yemen
arvind.kumar@undp.org

SURAYO BUZURUKOVA

Team Leader
Governance and Rule of Law Unit.
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Yemen
surayo.buzurukova@undp.org



Abbreviations

CBPN	Community-Based Protection Network
CFW	Cash for Work
FAF	For All Foundation
FGDs	Focus Group Discussions
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GIS	Geographic Information System
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
INGOs	International Non-Governmental Organizations
IPs	Implementing Partners
KIIs	Key Informant Interviews
NFIs	Non-Food items
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
PSS	Psychosocial Support
PVE	Prevention of Violent Extremism
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USD	US Dollar
YER	Yemeni Riyal
YLHS	Yemen Livelihood and Human Security project

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EXECUTIVE

SUMMARY





Background

The Yemen Livelihood and Human Security (YLHS) project is funded by the Government of Japan and UNDP. The project was implemented in two phases from 2017 to 2019 by UNDP and partners included For All Foundation (FAF) and OXFAM Yemen. YLHS aimed to strengthen the resilience of communities to resist and recover from the conflict, through providing opportunities for livelihoods and protection support to vulnerable groups and provision of socio-economic infrastructure. The project targeted the most vulnerable groups in Aden (Attwahi, Crater, and Mualla districts) and Lahj Governorates (Tuban and Tor Albalah districts).

The main objective of this impact assessment was to assess the impact of livelihoods and protection interventions to assess the socio-economic impact on the lives of the targeted beneficiaries.

Given the scope of the impact assessment, both quantitative and qualitative approaches were adopted. The data collection tools included a desk review, key informant interviews (KIIs), focus group discussions (FGDs), women and youth survey questionnaire, and case studies.

Findings

The YLHS project was implemented with an integrated approach of restoring the disrupted livelihoods of crisis-affected populations and strengthening community-based protection mechanisms with a focus on women and youth. The project provided opportunities for livelihoods and protection support to most vulnerable groups in targeted districts.

The project built women and youth capacity through vocational & business training and skills development and provided seed grants to create micro-businesses. In Phase II, beneficiaries received emergency employment to help generate income through cash for work (CFW) activities. In addition, CFW activities were implemented to improve access to basic services such as health, education, and water, and to enhance the protection mechanisms.

A market assessment was conducted in Phase I to provide necessary market information to identify the market needs and opportunities. Beneficiaries were able to select businesses that suited their interests and capabilities while taking into account local market needs and opportunities. Beneficiaries also were linked with microfinance institutions, while some of them received advisory support, through a systematic process, helping them find their own solutions to their problems and challenges, as well as addressing attitude problems that may negatively affect their businesses.

The project also provided protection means,

capacity building of formal and informal justice and mediation providers, and psychosocial support to those who were traumatized due to conflict.

The project successfully created the community based protection network (CBPN) in each targeted district to address protection cases and develop a work plan to enhance the social cohesion of the community and neighborhood peacebuilding, as well as to act as protection actors in the absence of the law and with the unstable condition of courts and prisons. Moreover, seven safe spaces were created to ensure that the justice services group network will continue its support for the community members who are in need of legal consultation and mediation support.

The supported micro-businesses became a main source of income for around 790 households (5,530 individuals). Beneficiaries demonstrated success in doing business by making a profit, creating job opportunities for others, sharing skills, building a relationship and networks with other business owners and suppliers, as well as growing their businesses in a stable manner. Moreover, beneficiaries confirmed that they become more dependent on themselves and less vulnerable, as well as less likely to engage in violent extremism.

The project had a positive economic and social impact on restoring the disrupted livelihoods and strengthening community-based protection mechanisms in the targeted communities.




INTERVENTIONS



Micro businesses seed grant, business advisory support and establishment



Business and skill capacity development



Emergency employment creation through cash for work for meeting immediate needs and promote savings



Improving safe spaces and building community based protection network



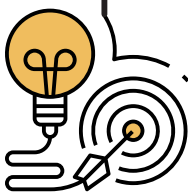
Capacity building training To justice service providers



Psychosocial session and individual sessions



Innovation



EXPECTED RESULT

Women and youth-centric stabilized livelihoods options and rehabilitated community assets through labour intensive emergency employment, micro and small-scale enterprises.



Protection mechanisms of conflict affected communities is strengthened with a focus on women and youth.



Economic Impact

Skills Building and Development



Training and skills development that beneficiaries received enabled them to obtain essential knowledge and skills to enter the market and to sustain the businesses. Vocational and business skills such as developing a business plan financial management, sales, and marketing were the most appreciated among the beneficiaries, as they perceived them to be essential skills to start a business. The vast majority of beneficiaries believe that training and skills development enabled

them to identify market opportunities and benefited from these opportunities. Cash for work beneficiaries in Phase II of the project also learned new skills such as teamwork, planning, community initiatives management, and awareness-raising skills that enabled them to implement initiatives and awareness campaigns in their communities to enhance the social cohesion and protection, and to reduce the violence.

Business Selection



The market assessment and the guidance of trainers and advisers helped the beneficiaries to select the right businesses which are related to the market demand, as well as more suited to their capacity and interest. In addition, beneficiaries were selected from the targeted districts to ensure they had a good experience with the targeted communities and that the business proposals were based on the needs of the local communities and markets, that developed during the training and market researches.

and instead to identify micro-businesses that YLHS would support with technical knowledge, funds and capacity.

Attempts were made not to replicate micro-business types within the same areas

The majority of businesses are services including sewing, hair-dressing, solar power and electricity extensions, mobile maintenance, photography, and plumbing, while some of the enterprises are trade such as clothing and air-conditioning and few of them are beekeeping. Most women focused on traditional businesses such as sewing and hairdressing, while few women started non-traditional businesses such as photography and mobile maintenance. The vast



majority of beneficiaries indicated that they selected types of micro-businesses based on the community and market needs and prior knowledge or experience. Most of the micro-businesses are somewhat linked with

what was suggested in the market assessment, while some micro-businesses in Lahj are out of the market assessment such as beekeeping, which also corresponded with the market needs.

Business and Advisory Support Provision



The advisory support services that were provided in Phase II of the project were cited as building directly on the needs of the beneficiaries through a systematic process helped them improve business management, market knowledge and a better understanding of businesses in general, leading to improved micro-businesses. Nonetheless, there are limiting factors affecting the impact of the advisory support services of-

fered including the number of advisors offering support, and this limits the number of beneficiaries who can receive the support services, and absence of business mentoring service which would encourage beneficiaries to gain practical and hands-on support from experienced entrepreneurs and allows beneficiaries access to well-functioning business networks through their mentors' contacts.

Access to Capital



The seed grants have had a positive impact and contributed to starting up the beneficiaries' micro-businesses.

Most beneficiaries would not have started their micro-businesses without the project grant. Some of them may have looked for livelihood opportunities in the private sector or even joined some of the armed groups.

Women were more likely to not have access

to capital than youth. Women in Yemen face many challenges and barriers when they decide to start a business including lack of access to information and income, lack of assets for collateral, restrictions of movement, traditions and customs, and low levels of education. Therefore, providing grants for women as is a sound strategy as it enables them to be more capable of starting their business or to grow them.

Employment



The analysis of the impact on employment shows that the beneficiaries' micro-businesses contribute to the creation of job opportunities with around 35 new jobs were created in hairdressers, sewing, cooling, and air-conditioning sectors. In addition, less than half of the micro-business expect to hire new employees in the next two years, mainly in sewing, hairdressing, mobile maintenance,

and solar power and electricity extensions sectors. The analysis of the impact on employment shows that the probability of a female business hiring an employee is higher than the probability of a male business. 55% of female micro-business owners revealed that they expected to hire new employees compared to 30% of male micro-business owners.

Income/Profit and Utilization of Income



More than 88% of the micro-businesses are stable and making a profit. Female micro-business owners were able to breakeven more than male owners. Most businesses types were selected based on the community and market needs that have a good demand and helped the beneficiaries to make good revenue and achieve the breakeven point faster.

education can be seen as a positive impact of the project. Moreover, the assessment also found a good impact on food security as increased income has contributed to allowing their households to have more food to eat, and consume better quality of food, as well as prevents their households from resorting to negative coping mechanisms such as buying cheaper and less nutritious food. Findings suggest that helping women and youth to establish their businesses and earn an income not only helps their own economic situation but also improves the welfare of their whole family.

The majority of beneficiaries tended to spend more income on food, while some of them tended to spend some income on health care, transportation, clothing, and education. The investment in social capital such as

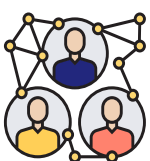
Scale-up Opportunities



The stability of business performance has positively impacted the business owners intentions to expand and increase their business activities. More than 68% of micro-business owners plan to expand their businesses, for different reasons including to generate more income, to meet customer demand,

and to be more competitive. This finding indicates that there are still opportunities in the market, which may increase the stability of businesses and have a positive impact in the mid and long term of businesses. Whereas financial limitations were still a barrier to expanding businesses.

Networking and Linkages with Market Centers



More than half of beneficiaries built a relationship and networks with micro-business owners, suppliers, MFIs and other stakeholders in their areas.

The linkages that beneficiaries develop with other stakeholders have a positive impact on their micro-business' turnover from different

dimensions including increasing the number of customers, expanding the market to new areas, exchanging information and customers among members of the network, turning some members of the network to customers in other businesses, as well as decreasing the cost of products or raw materials due to having a good relationship with suppliers.



Social Impact

Overall, the project had a positive social impact that contributed to reducing violence, vulnerabilities, and enhancing social cohesion and access to justice as well as changing people's attitude.

Protection



Psychosocial Support Sessions (PSS) that beneficiaries received enabled them to deal with post-traumatic stress caused by living through conflict such as loss of lives, loss of

property and bearing witness to extreme violence as well as enabled them to identify people in need of assistance and train them to resolve community-based conflicts.

Vulnerabilities



Results show that the project contributed to enabling most beneficiaries to become more self-reliant and reducing their vulnerabilities, as most of them started income-generating

activities such as starting business that led to greater access to food and basic services as well as improved access to formal and informal justice providers.

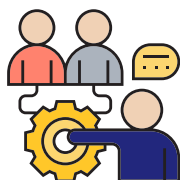
Economic Opportunities and Livelihood vis-a-vis the Conflict



Unemployment and leisure time are considered enemies for most youth compounded with hard and difficult economic conditions. With the absence of economic support from the government or any other agency, the potential of young people is not leveraged. Nevertheless, by participating in the liveli-

hood improvement interventions they became able to make money and escape the scourge of poverty and need. In addition, the more economic opportunities are made available the fewer people tend to be involved in conflict and violent extremism.

Violence and Psychological Trauma



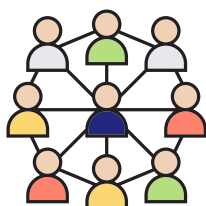
Economic empowerment, increased awareness, and improving the security situation were the main things contributed to reducing violence. Around a third of beneficiaries think that the level of violence and crimes have decreased and their ideas and behaviors have positively changed as a result of their participation in the project. In addition, improved economic opportunities, knowledge, skills of women, increased awareness, sharing households responsibilities and contributing to living expenses were the main factors contributing to reducing gender-based violence mainly against women.

Results show that participation in the project has contributed in varying degrees to improve relationships among family members and community members and that beneficiaries transferred some of the benefits to others. The key factors behind the improvement of the relationships include the ability to support family members, contribute to living expenses, sense of pride, improving

the income and self-reliance.

The assessment found that only 12% of respondents feel that the project contributed to enhancing the role of women and youth to some extent in local decision-making and protection-related issues. Some participants reported that they had a chance to share their experience of implementing local initiatives and were involved in resolving some social conflicts with the local authorities. In addition, the vast majority of respondents cited enhanced belonging to their communities because they became part of the market dynamic and interacted with different market players. On the other hand, most respondents feel that the project did not contribute to enhancing the role of women and youth in local decision-making due to lack of advocacy and governance knowledge and skills, and lack of awareness of the importance of women and youth participation in local decision-making.

Social Cohesion



Results show that youth initiatives reflected a strong alignment with the local community needs and more tangible results for people which also enhanced protection.

Initiatives were also a great opportunity for women and youth to enhance protection-related measures into their communities, strengthening their leadership capacity and participation in the decision making. In addition, the CFW interventions notably improved access to public services and com-

munity assets for respective communities, as well as changed behavior of target beneficiaries toward income generation and enhanced social cohesion.

It is, therefore, reasonable to conclude from this assessment that YLHS project has made a positive impact on strengthening resilience and addressing vulnerabilities and that economic empowerment and protection mechanisms are strongly linked.



1 Introduction

Project Overview

Project Outcome aims to enhancing stability and peace-building, provide opportunities for livelihoods protection support to vulnerable groups, provision of socio-economic infrastructure.

The objective of the project is to strengthen the resilience of the Yemeni community to cope with the effects of the current unrest and enable those whose livelihoods were severely disrupted to recover and rebuild their lives.

The project targeted the most vulnerable groups in Aden and Lahj Governorates.

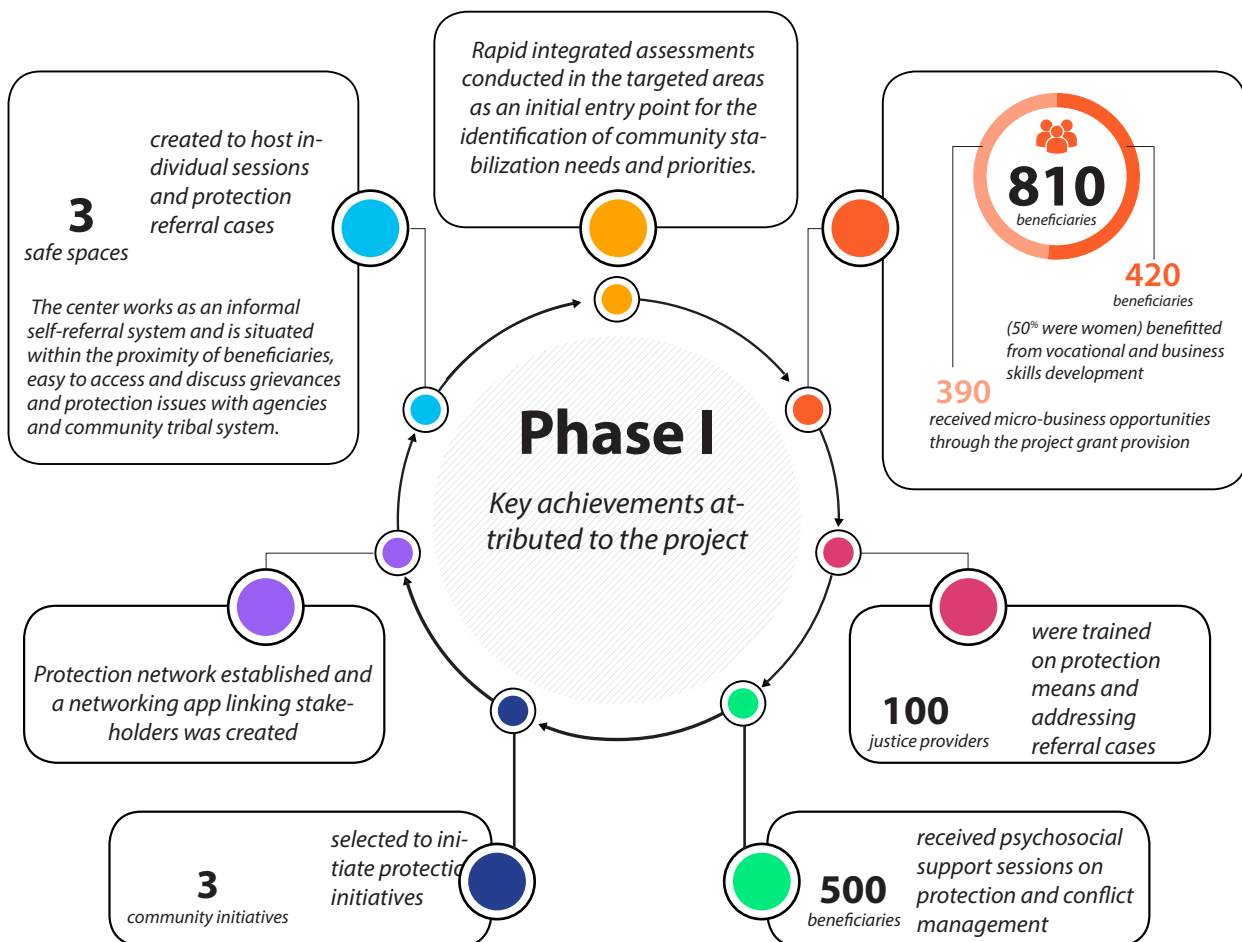
1.1. Background

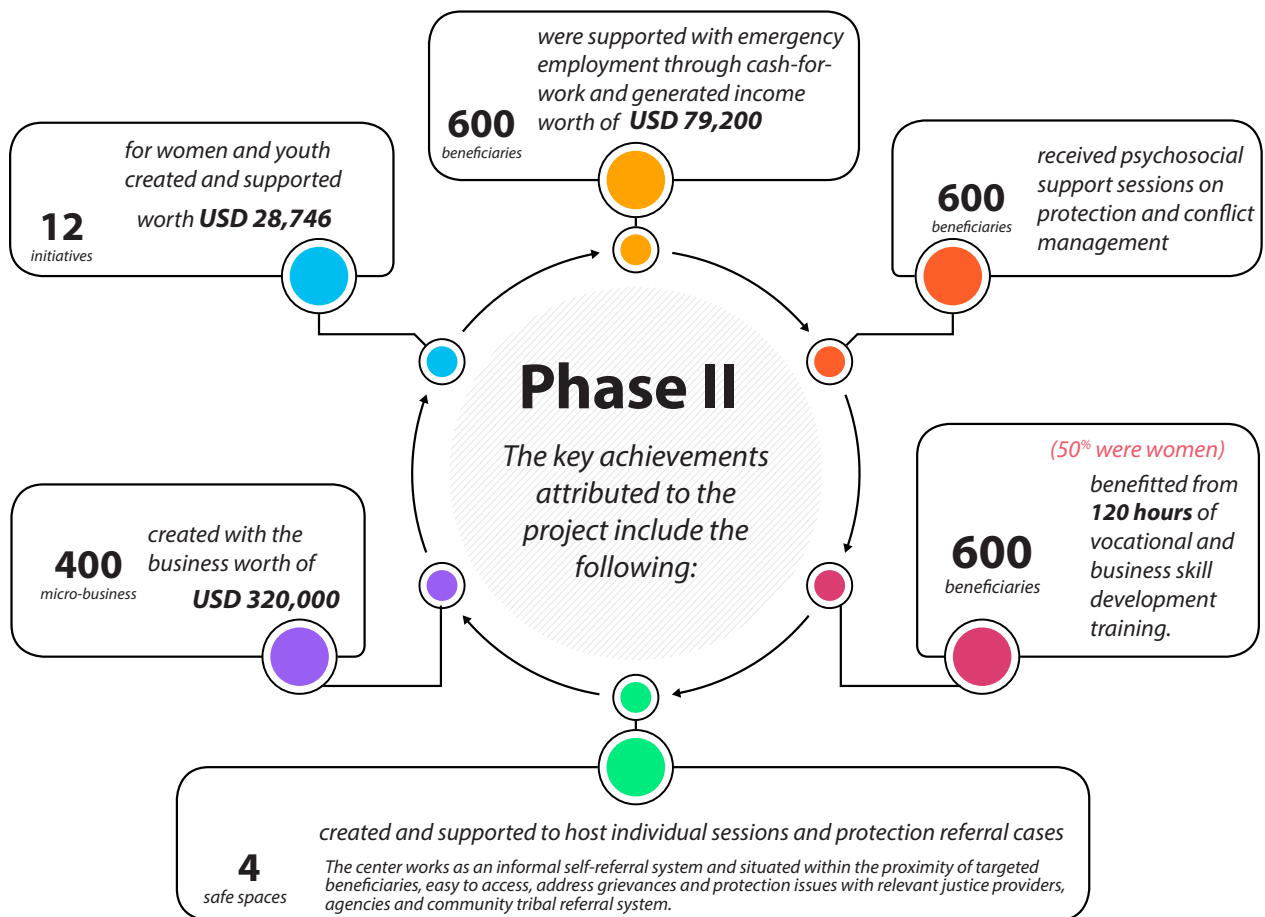
The Yemen Livelihood and Human Security (YLHS) project is funded by the Government of Japan and UNDP. The project was implemented in two Phases from 2017 to 2019 by UNDP and partners including ForAll Foundation (FAF) and OXFAM Yemen. The YLHS project aimed to build on the foundations laid by the achievements of humanitarian aid in the Southern Region with a particular focus on Aden and Lahj Governorates. The project aimed also to strengthen the resilience of communities to resist and recover from the conflict.

Project Outcome: Enhancing stability and peace-building, as well as providing opportunities for livelihoods and protection support to vulnerable groups and provision of socio-economic infrastructure; which will result in strengthening the resilience of communities that will, in turn, contribute to the reduction of the conflict. Furthermore, the objective of the project is to strengthen the resilience of the Yemeni community to cope with the effects of the current unrest and enable those whose livelihoods were severely disrupted to recover and rebuild their lives.

The project targeted the most vulnerable groups in Aden and Lahj Governorates through providing beneficiaries with livelihoods opportunities, protection mechanisms, and vocational training and small in-kind grants to create micro-businesses in the project areas. The project also provided protection means, capacity building, and psychosocial support to those who were traumatized due to conflict.

The key Achievements Attributed to the Project in Phase I and II





1.2. Impact Assessment Objectives

The main objective of the impact assessment was to assess the impact of livelihoods and protection interventions, as well as to assess the socio-economic impact on the lives of the targeted beneficiaries. The assessment incorporated two key elements in designing;

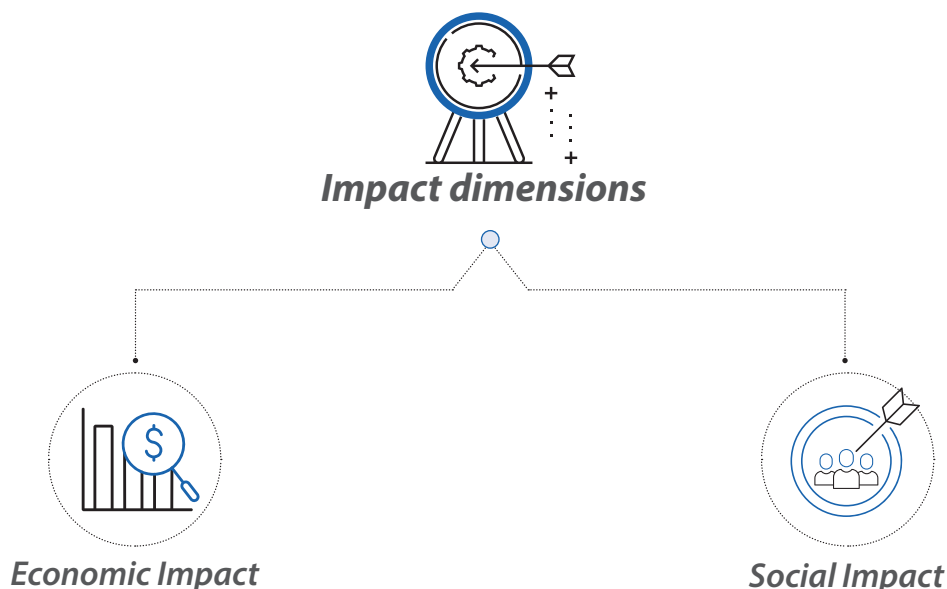


TABLE 3

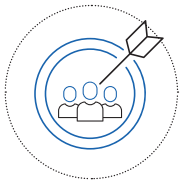
Impact dimensions



Economic Impact



- Skills-Building and Development
- Business Selection
- Business and advisory support provision
- Access to Capital
- Market Opportunities
- Employment
- Income/Profit
- Utilization of Income
- Credit and debit Status
- Scale-up Opportunities
- Networking and Linkages with Market Centres
- Demand and Supply
- Financial Risks and Continuity and Opportunity Cost



Social Impact



- Utilization of Income as Alternative opportunities and Reduction in Engagement of Violent Extremism.
- Change in People's Attitude
- Reduced Gender-Based Violence
- Reduced Vulnerabilities
- Social Cohesion
- Reduced Willingness to Support Violent Groups
- Economic Opportunities and the Livelihood of Conflict
- Roles of Women and Youth in Local Decision-Making and Protection
- Mitigate the Traumatic Consequences of the Conflict
- Access to Justice (formal and informal)



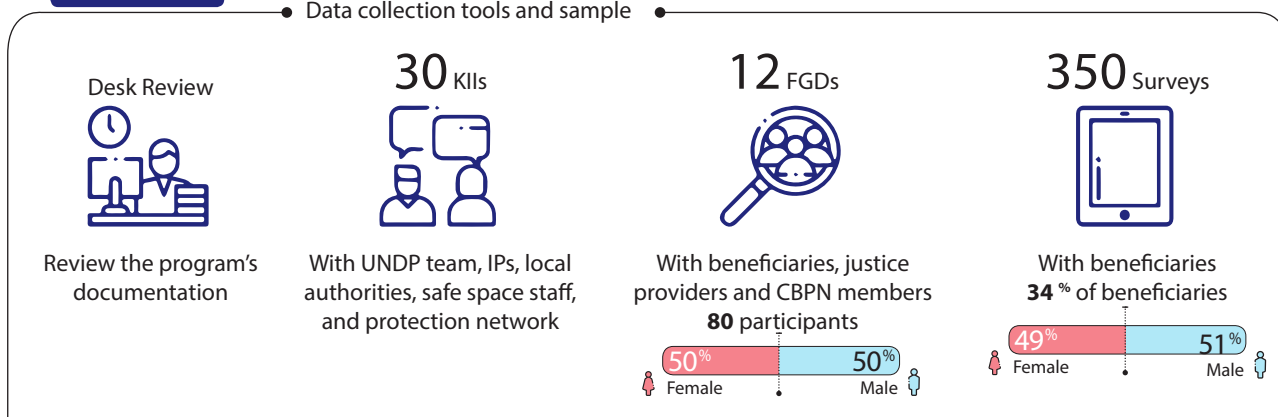
2 Methodology

Given the scope of the impact monitoring, both quantitative and qualitative approaches have been adopted. The participatory methodology was also used to collect first-hand qualitative and quantitative information on the project's impact. This included field visits and meetings with the direct beneficiaries in the targeted governorates, as well as with project teams, implementing partners (IPs), representatives from the national and local authorities and other relevant stakeholders.

The data collection tools included a desk review, Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), and surveys. (see Figure 1).

FIGURE 1

• Data collection tools and sample •



Desk review



The desk review included a review of all relevant project documentation, including pro-

posals, log frame, assessments reports produced by implementing partners and UNDP.

Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)



A total of 30 (KIIs) were conducted with the UNDP team, Implementing Partner staff (Aden and Lahj), local authorities, safe space staff members, community initiatives, and protection network. KIIs were used as a qualitative tool to assess the environment including support, challenges, and the impact

on the local communities, as well as to gain lessons learned identify improvement areas

A list of organizations interviewed is presented in Annex 3, while types of organizations interviewed are summarized in Table 2 below.

TABLE 2

• Number of Key Informant Interviews •

Group	Aden	Lahj	Total
UNDP team	3		3
IPs	2	2	4
Local authorities	6	4	10
Safe space staff members	3	2	5
Community initiative	3	2	5
Protection network	3		3
Total	22	8	30

Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)



FGDs with beneficiaries

To complement the quantitative data, to have a more detailed insight into the reaction of beneficiaries to the support they have received, to assess the impact of the interventions that project provided, eight FGDs were organized with beneficiaries (4 females, 4 males) in the targeted districts

and governorates. A total of 80 participants (50% females, 50% male) took part in the FGDs. The participants were selected randomly from the list of beneficiaries and covered both Phases of the project. The number of FGD participants by governorate, district and gender are summarized in Table 3.

TABLE 3

● Focus group discussions sample ●

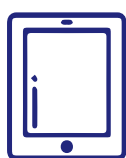
Government	District	# of FGDs		# of Participants		Total
		Male	Female	Male	Female	
Aden	Altwahi	1	1	10	10	20
	Crater	1	1	10	10	20
Lahj	Tuban	1	1	10	10	20
	Tor Albaha	1	1	10	10	20
Total		4	4	40	40	80

FGDs with Justice Providers and CBPN members

Furthermore, four FGDs with justice providers and Community Based Protection Network (CBPN) members were conducted (2 females, 2 males and 2 in Aden, 2 in Lahj), to gain information and opinions and then assess the impact of the training and other assistance that YLHS project provided. The

sample was represented by all beneficiaries in the two Phases of the project. A total of 32 participants (50% females, 50% male) took part in the FGDs. The participants were selected randomly from the list of beneficiaries and covered both Phases of the project.

Survey



Given the scope of the impact assessment, women and youth beneficiaries survey was conducted with beneficiaries in the selected districts and governorates to measure the impact of the economic and social benefit, as well as to capture in-depth individual-level experiences, perceptions, and impact of the assistance.

The total survey respondents were 350 participants (49% females, 51% males) based on the number of beneficiaries in each district (see Table 4). The participants were selected randomly from the list of beneficiaries and the gender profile was considered during the fieldwork. The sample covered both Phases of the project.

TABLE 4

● Women and Youth beneficiaries survey sample ●

Gov.	District		# of Beneficiaries					# of the Survey Samples				
	Phase I	Phase II	Phase I		Phase II		Total	Phase I		Phase II		Total
			M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F	
Aden	Altwahi	Altwahi	70	70	75	75	290	25	25	25	25	100
	Crater	Crater	70	70	75	75	290	25	25	25	25	100
	Mualla		70	70			140	25	25			50
Lahj		Tuban			75	75	150			25	25	50
		Tor Albah			75	75	150			25	25	50
Total			210	210	300	300	1020	75	75	100	100	350

Sample size estimation was calculated based on the desired confidence level and an acceptable margin of error.

- Confidence level: 95%
- The margin of error: 5%
- The population of the selected survey areas is 1020 beneficiaries.
- Consequently, the minimum sample size required will be 280 beneficiaries¹⁾.
- The sample is rounded up to 350 interviews which represents 34% of beneficiaries.

¹⁾ The Online Sampling Calculator Raosoft (<http://www.raosoft.com/samplesize.html>) was used to assist in calculations.



3

Findings

3.1. Women and Youth Beneficiary Profiles

This section provides a general overview of the profile of surveyed YLHS project's women and youth beneficiary characteristics, including age, education and family status, while the second part focuses on the selection process and assistance provided.

Demographics

Age: The average age of respondents is 31 years old. More than half range between 24 to 34 years, while 40% were 18 to 24 years and 11% were among 35 to 44 years (see Figure 2). No significant difference was observed among males and females, as well as across geographic.

Education: As one of the determining variables for economic performance, the assessment found that the vast majority of respondents (93%) have medium-to-high educational levels, while 45% have a university degree, 43% completed high school, and 5% with a diploma, and while only 7% have an elementary school. Among gender, 50% of female respondents were

university degree holders compared with 41% male, while 50% of males were high school graduates compared with 34% females and 9% of female beneficiaries have an elementary school which was less among male with 4%. Figure 3 shows the gender breakdown of responses.

The level of education has been further analyzed in terms of geographic location. 53% of respondents in Aden governorate held a bachelor's degree which was less in Lahj governorate with 27%, whereas 60% in Lahj have high school education compared with 36% in Aden. As expected the educational level of beneficiaries was higher in Aden.

FIGURE 2

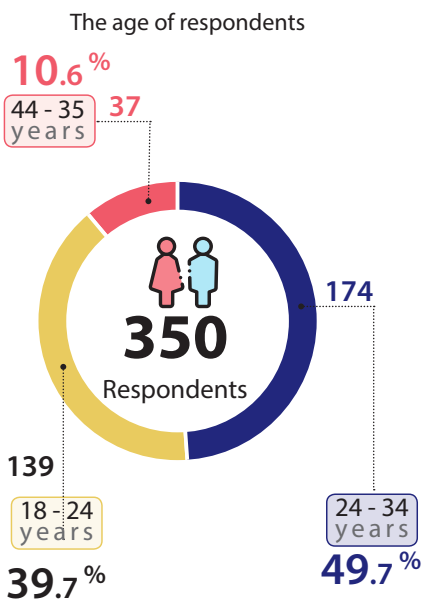
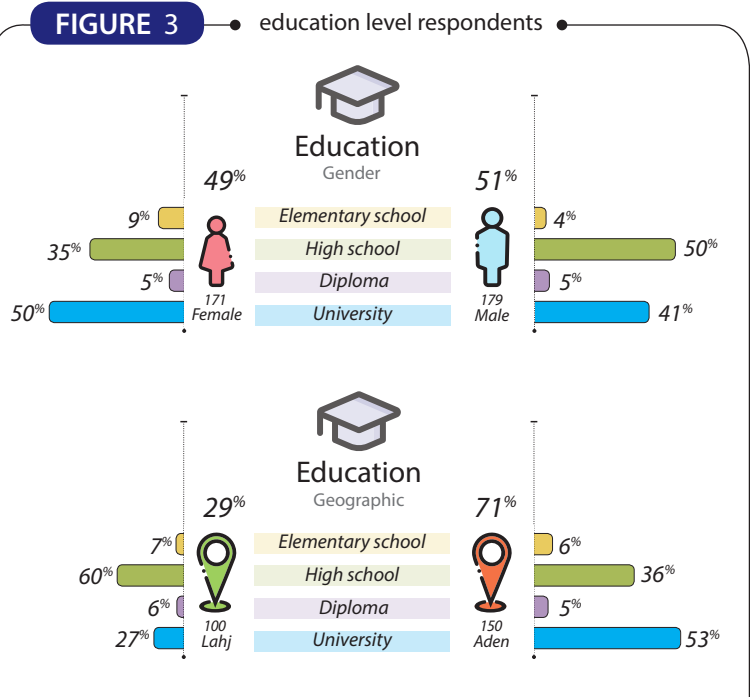


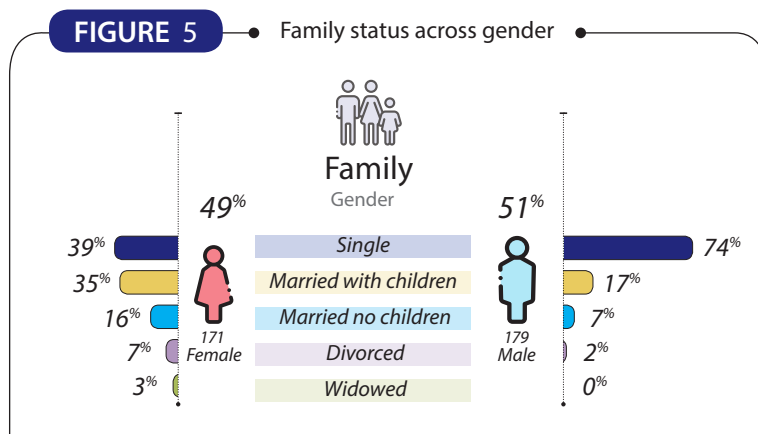
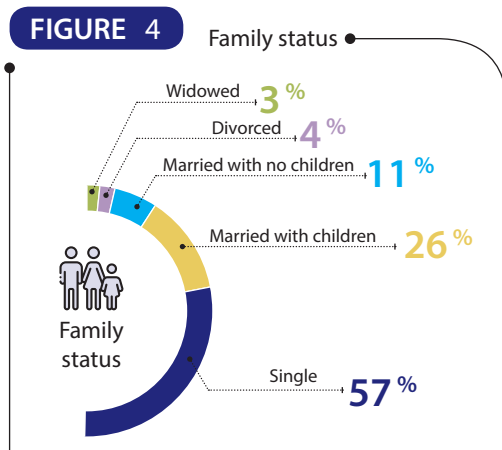
FIGURE 3



Family status

Most respondents (57%) were single, while 37% were married (26% married with children and 11% married with no children) and 4% were divorced, and 3% were widowed (see Figure 4). There was a significant difference between males and females as 74% of males compared to 39% of females were single, while 35% of females compared to

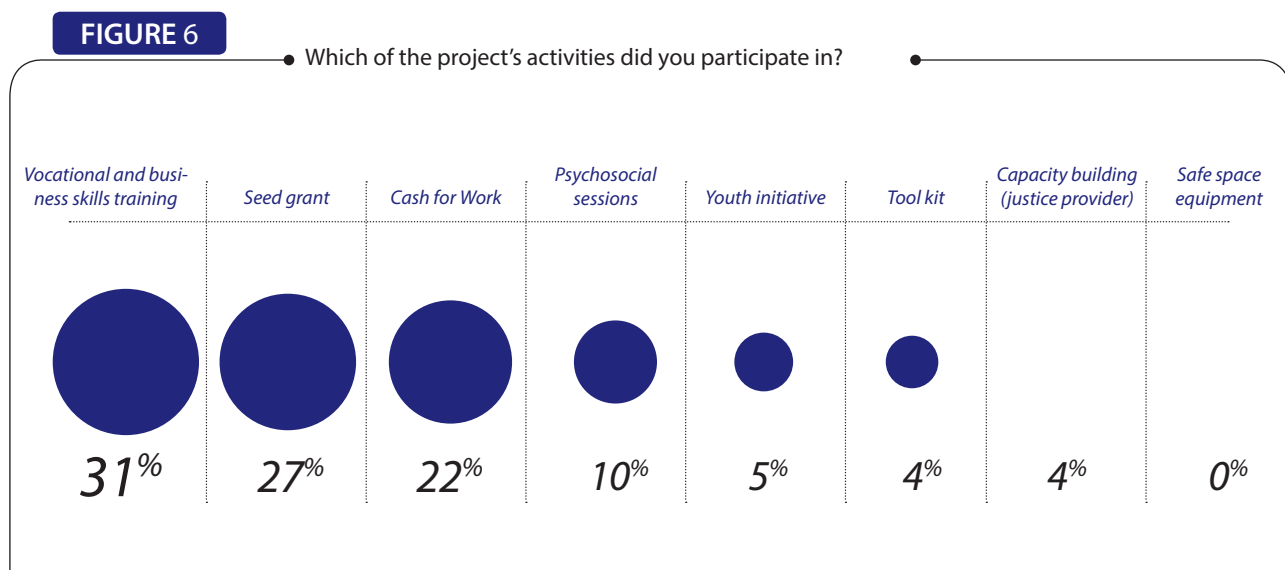
17% were married with children and 16% of females were married with no children, which was less among males at 7%. Around 7% of females were divorced compared to just 2% of males, whereas 3% of females were widowed (see Figure 5). No significant differences were found across geographic areas.



Assistance provided

Respondents received livelihood and protection assistance. The vast majority (93%) reported that they participated in the vocational and business skills training while 81% received seed grants to create their own micro-businesses, 13% received tool kits, and

64% participated in cash for work. In addition, 29% those surveyed indicated that they attended psychosocial sessions, 15% were involved in youth initiatives in the targeted areas and 1% of justice provide received capacity-building support (see Figure 6).







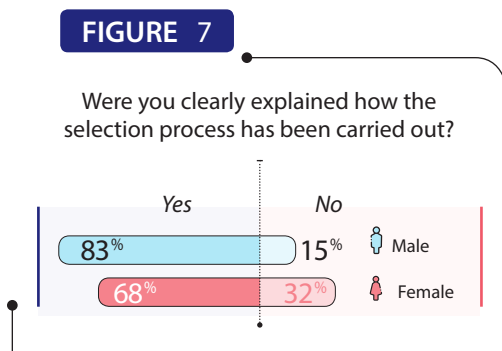
The vocational and business training that I have received in the YLHS project improved my technical skills in hairdressing and business management. The skills received enabled me to be more confident to start my business.

Ms. Samira Ali,
one beneficiary in Altwahi district, Aden



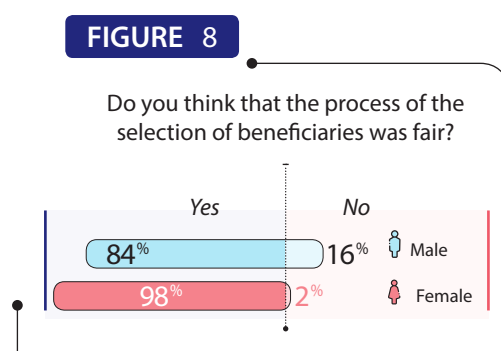
Selection process

The survey asked beneficiaries if they were clearly explained how the selection process was carried out, seeking to get a better understanding of the selection process and related challenges which may affect the impact of interventions. Most respondents (77%) reported that they were aware of the selection process, and it was clearly explained to them. It was higher among males at 83% compared to 68% of females (see Figure 7).



Ratios reflect the women's situation.

Women's mobility may be restricted compared with men force due to traditional culture, and social norms, as well as men have more access to information. In addition, the vast majority of beneficiaries (91%) indicated that the process of the selection of beneficiaries was fair (98% females, 84% males) and the selection process was transparent and trustworthy. (see Figure 8)



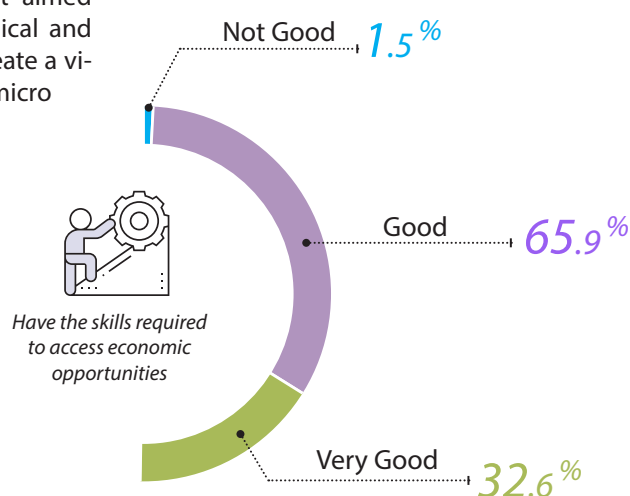
3.2. Economic Impact

This section presents the findings of the economic impact on women and youth beneficiaries as well as local communities.

Skills building and development



The beneficiaries were provided with vocational and business training that aimed to develop the beneficiaries' technical and business skills to enable them to create a viable business plan, propose their micro business in the project areas and run successful businesses. The vocational training included mobile maintenance, photography, hairdressing, sewing, electricity, solar power, refrigeration and air-conditioning, car mechanics, plumbing, midwifery, and beekeeping. The vocational training subjects were identified based on the market assessment that identified the promising sectors in each targeted district, as well as during validation workshops with district managers, and Vocational Center Institutes.



The vast majority of beneficiaries (98%) reported that the training programs are appropriate with their needs, circumstances of their lives, areas, and economic activity which enabled them to improve their livelihood situation. Vocational and business skills, particularly developing a business plan, financial management, sales and marketing, were the most appreciated among the beneficiaries as they perceived them to be essential skills to start a business. No significant difference was observed among males and females as well as across areas (see Figure 9).

In Lahj governorate where the primary source of income is agriculture, this demonstrates the extent to which YLHS project has contributed to the diversification of skills base within the region through equipping the beneficiaries in Lahj with the technical skills needed by the region such as mobile maintenance, sewing, electricity and solar power and plumbing. In addition, the survey results indicated that 95% of the women and youth respondents stated that they benefited from the training and improved their vocational and business knowledge and skills and 97% of the respondents believe that after the training, they have more confidence as they have the technical and business skills required to start-up their enterprises.

The survey results found that 33% of the respondents believe that they have very good skills required to access economic opportunities as a result of their involvement in the YLHS project, while 66% believe they have good skills and only 2% do not have good skills required to access economic opportunities, which means they need more training (1% females, 3% males). (see Figure 11) Most beneficiaries started income-generating activities such as start business, or they are finding a job.

FIGURE 9

To what extent do you believe that you have the skills required to access economic opportunities as a result of your involvement in this project?

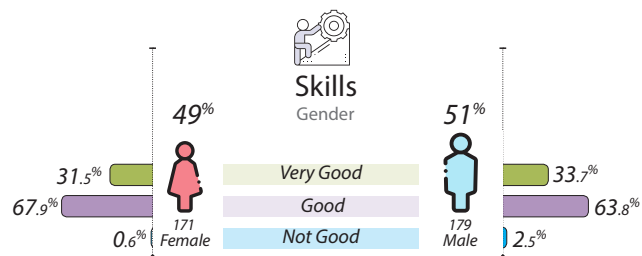


FIGURE 10

To what extent did the training programs fit with your need, circumstances of your life, your area and economic activity?

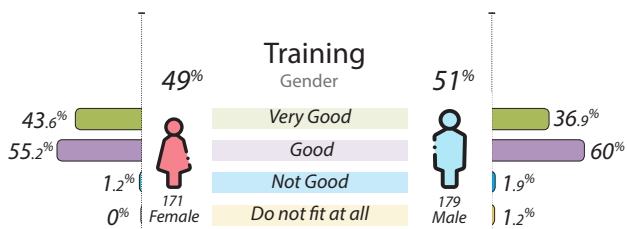
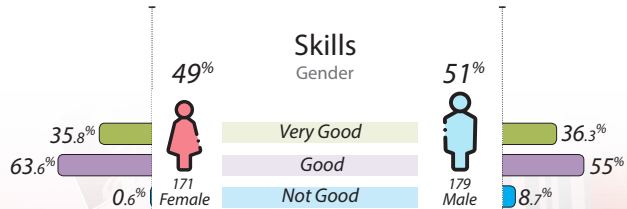


FIGURE 11

To what extent did you benefit from the training and improve your knowledge and skills?





The vast majority of respondents (94%) reported that the training programs improved their technical and business skills to identify the market opportunities and that they benefited from these opportunities (95% females, 93% males). The participants of the FGDs stated that during the training they went to the market to identify needs and opportunities and micro-businesses that matched with the market needs and their abilities. The beneficiaries assessed market prices and collected quotations for their business plan.

Cash for work (CFW) beneficiaries from Phase II were asked if they learned any new knowledge and skills during their participation in CFW activities. Overall, 80% of respondents stated that they learned new knowledge and skills from the CFW (85% females, 77% males) including soft and management skills (e.g. teamwork, planning, achieving goals, awareness-raising skills and community initiatives management) and vocational skills (e.g. plumbing, electricity, tree planting, building maintenance) that enabled them to implement initiatives and awareness campaigns in their communities to enhance the social cohesion and protection and to reduce the violence.

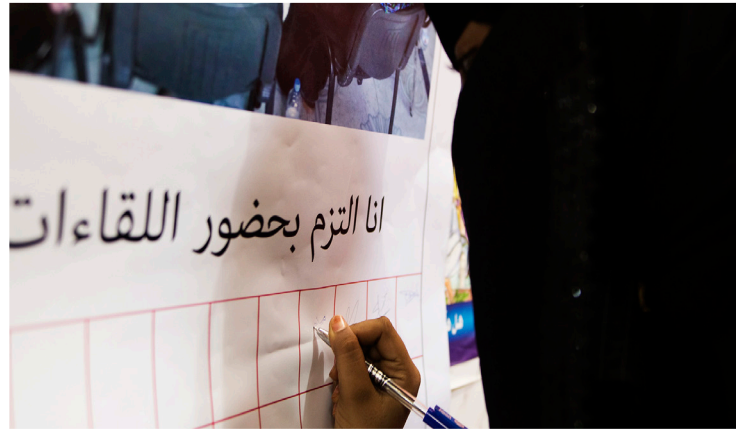
During the FGDs, almost all the participants indicated that they benefited from the training which improved their vocational and business knowledge and skills, as well as made them more confident to change their economic situation.

Some of the participants suggested that they need more advanced training such as technical training specific to particular business sectors (e.g. smartphone maintenance, film making, scenario writing, and film editing skills, fashion design), the duration of the training should be longer and there is need to strengthen the practical side of the training programs.

The majority of beneficiaries expressed great satisfaction with the training program, mainly among women as it seems that women are less targeted in livelihood empowerment and capacity building programs. In addition, the level of satisfaction from the training programs was higher among beneficiaries from Phase II and Lahj governorate, which have a positive impact on their life and micro-businesses.

The training programs not only benefited direct beneficiaries but reached out to other people. 42% of respondents reported that they had a chance to transfer knowledge and skills they have learned in the project with other people such as family members, friends, relatives and peers. (see Figure 12). Some beneficiaries reported that they were more fortunate than many people to participate in the project, therefore, they felt responsible toward others.

They transferred information, ideas, experience, and training materials through meetings, joint events, and apprenticeships (working together in some cases), as well as raising awareness by posting videos and



articles about self-business and peacebuilding in the social media. In addition, some of them have taken lead roles as trainers and/or mentors to support their peers' development of entrepreneurial and vocational skills. Moreover, 32% of respondents stated that they noticed a positive change in people who

shared with them knowledge and skills (30% females, 34% males). (see Figure 13). Some of them started up their own business, or got jobs, as well as improved their relations with family and community members, and consequently enhancing their livelihoods, social cohesion, protection and prevention of extreme violence.

FIGURE 12

Have you transferred the knowledge and skills you had in training to other people?

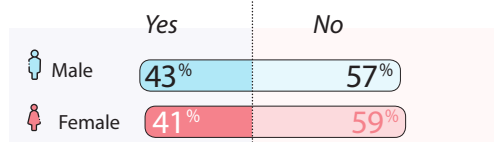
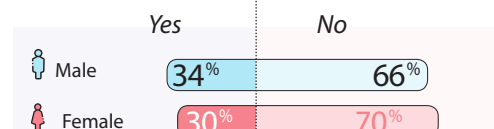


FIGURE 13

Have you noticed a positive change in people who shared with them your knowledge and skills?



3.2.2. Business Selection



The market assessment was conducted in Phase I that contributed to understanding the market needs and opportunities in the targeted districts in Aden and helped the beneficiaries to select the right businesses that were more appropriate with the market demand, as well as more suited with their capacity and interest.

The project in Phase II was expanded to cover Tuban and Tor Albaha districts in Lahj, however, the market assessment was not updated, despite the fact that there are differences in the nature, characteristics and local context of each governorate. During the interviews with the project team and trainers they stated that the findings of the market assessment that was conducted in Phase I was adopted and updated by the trainers during the training and every participant had to go to the market and target community to identify needs and businesses that

matched the market needs and their prior knowledge or experience.

Beneficiaries were selected from the targeted districts to ensure they had a good experience with the targeted communities and that the business suggestions were based on the needs of the local communities and markets. In addition, beneficiaries would understand the behavior of potential consumers and be able to reach them easily, as well as be more accepted by the local communities and have access to social capital.

The survey results indicated that over 57% of beneficiaries started up their own business (58% females, 56% males). The majority of businesses are services (87%) including sewing (24%), hair-dressing (20%), solar power and electricity extensions (18%), mobile maintenance (14%), photography (11%), and plumbing (3%), while 9% of enterprises are trade such as clothing and air-conditioning and 4% are beekeeping. As shown in Figure 16, most women focused on the traditional businesses such as sewing (47%), hairdressing (39%), while 12% of women started non-traditional businesses such as photography (9%) and mobile maintenance (3%).

The vast majority of beneficiaries indicated that they selected types of micro-businesses based on the community and market needs and prior knowledge or experience. In addition, there were attempts by the advisors not to replicate the micro-business types within the same areas, as well as micro-businesses

FIGURE 14 The main results/achievement due to participation in the project

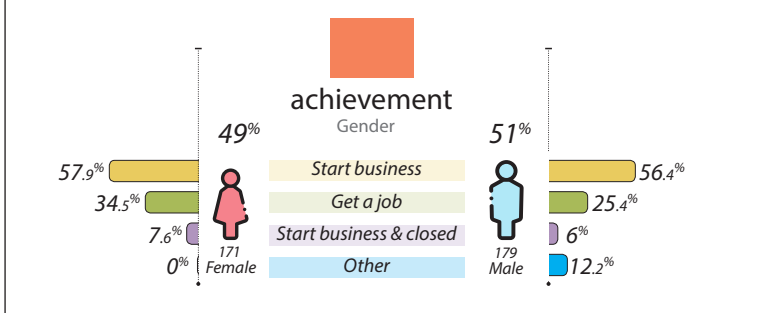
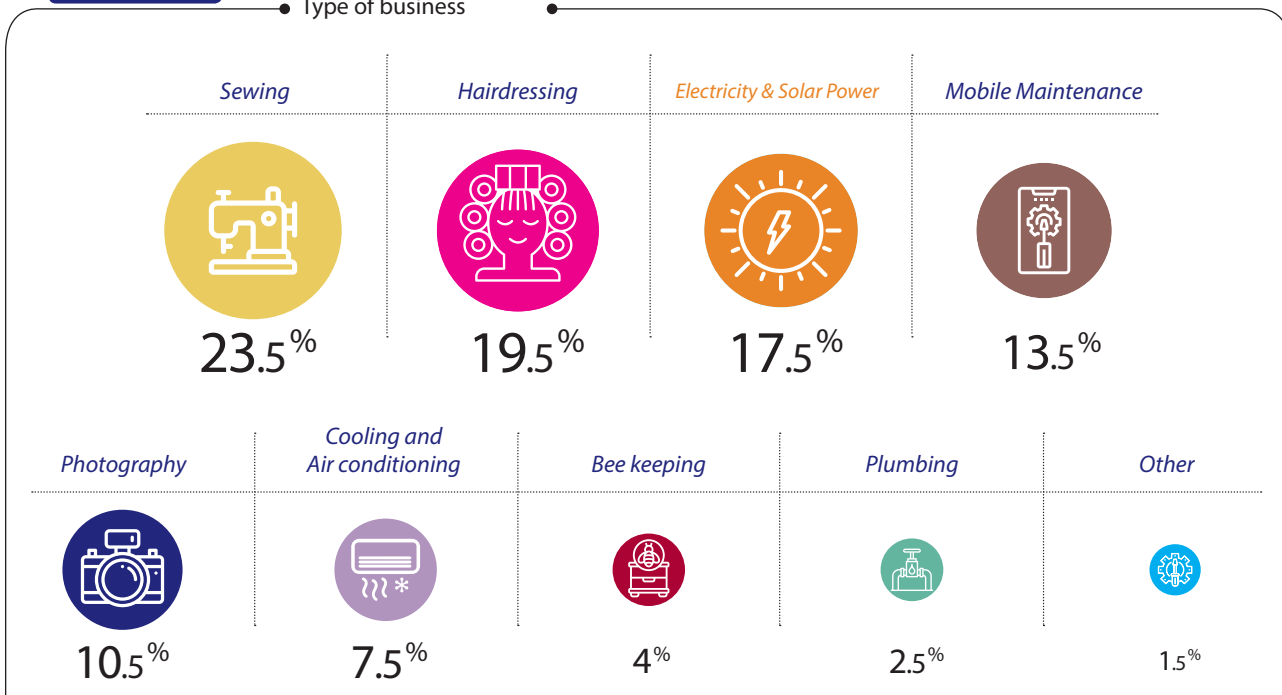


FIGURE 15 Type of business



that would face challenges such as lack of technical and business knowledge and skills, lack of funds and lack of experience.

These findings indicate that most of the micro-businesses are somewhat linked with what was suggested in the market assessment, while some micro-businesses are out of the market assessment like beekeeping, which also suited with the market needs.

When women and youth respondents who started up their business were asked about the main reasons they established their own business, they revealed that the main reasons were a willingness to run a business, prior knowledge or experience, gap/opportunity in the market, and know the market (see Figure 17). These findings were confirmed during FGDs and some participants added other reasons including joining armed/military groups, reducing the risk of joining extremist groups, lack of job opportunities in the private and public sectors and seeking a better future.

As shown in Figure 19, entrepreneurs faced some challenges/barriers to start their businesses including lack of finance (69%), lack of experience (27%), lack of information (23%), lack of required skills (19%), competition in the market (19%), lack of market (9%) and lack of technical skills. More challenges were mentioned during the FGDs that included high inflation, exchange rate instability, a weak enabling environment and the low purchasing power of community.

The beneficiaries were asked to what extent did the project helped them to address these challenges. Over 22% of respondents stated that the project helped them to address their challenges when they started their business

FIGURE 17

The main reasons for youth and women to start business

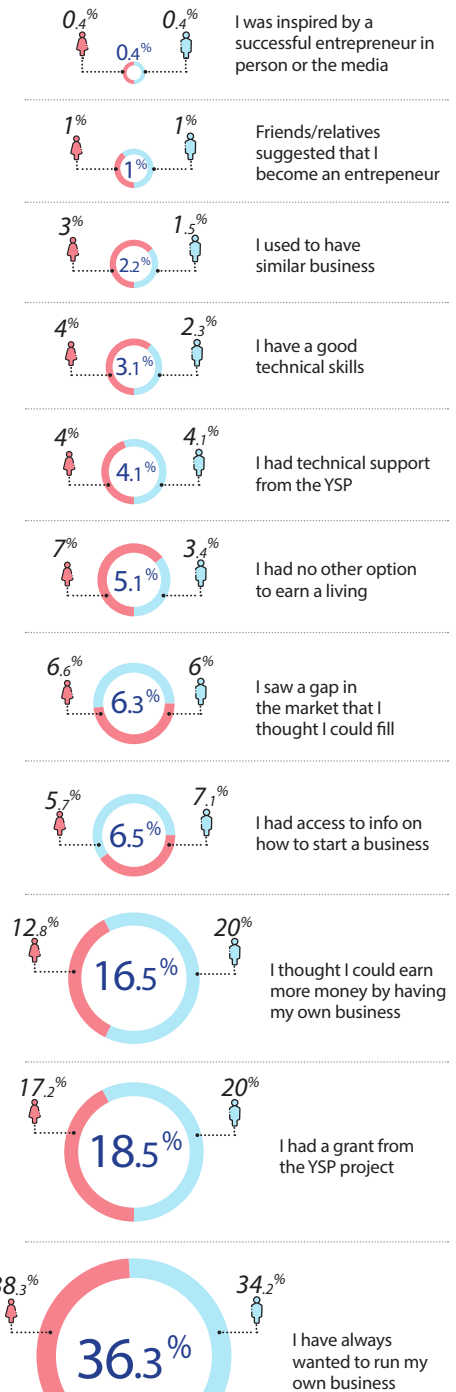
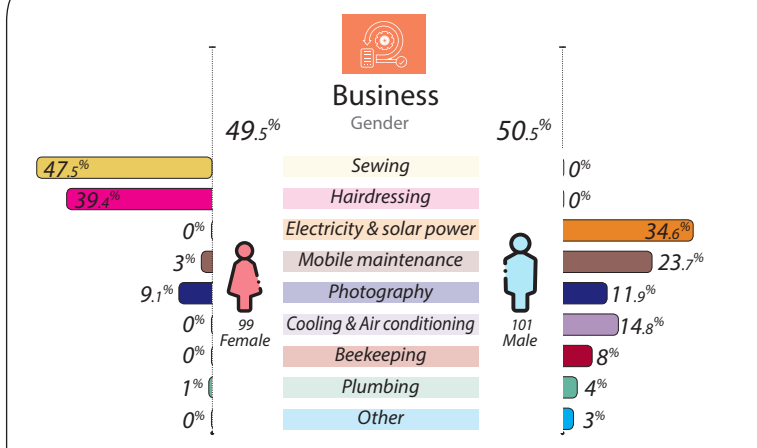
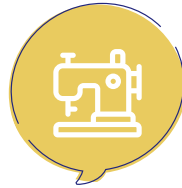


FIGURE 16 Type of business across gender





I was able to train a number of my family members and some of my neighbors with the sewing skills that I learned in the project. They gained skills quickly and now they help me in my project.

*Ms. Siham Said,
Beneficiary in Tuban district, Lahj*





“to a great extent” while 38% “to a fair extent” and 41% “to some degree”. (see Figure 20). The project helped them to address these challenges through providing vocational, business and life skills training, and

seed grants to create their own businesses for more than 77% of beneficiaries, as well as provided tool kits, linking the beneficiaries with microfinance and other relevant financial institutions, linkages with other beneficiaries (see Figure 21). In addition, some beneficiaries from Phase II added that advisory and technical support, attending psychosocial sessions and being involved in youth initiatives helped them to address these challenges and be more confident.

FIGURE 18

How long has this business/enterprise existed?

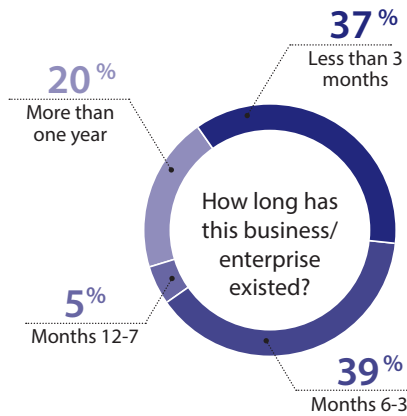


FIGURE 19

The main challenges/barriers that youth and women faced to start up their business

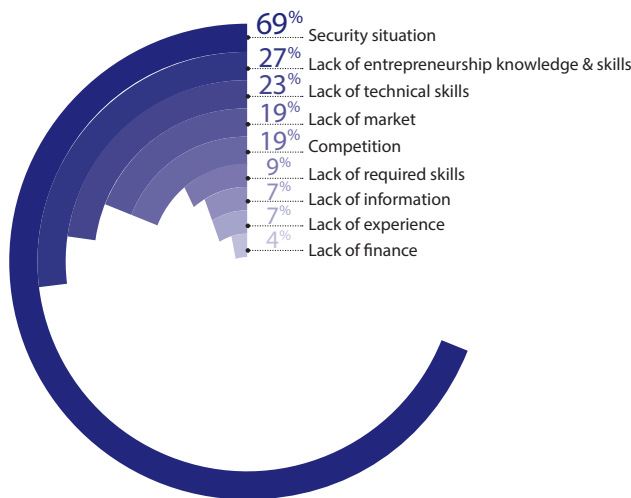
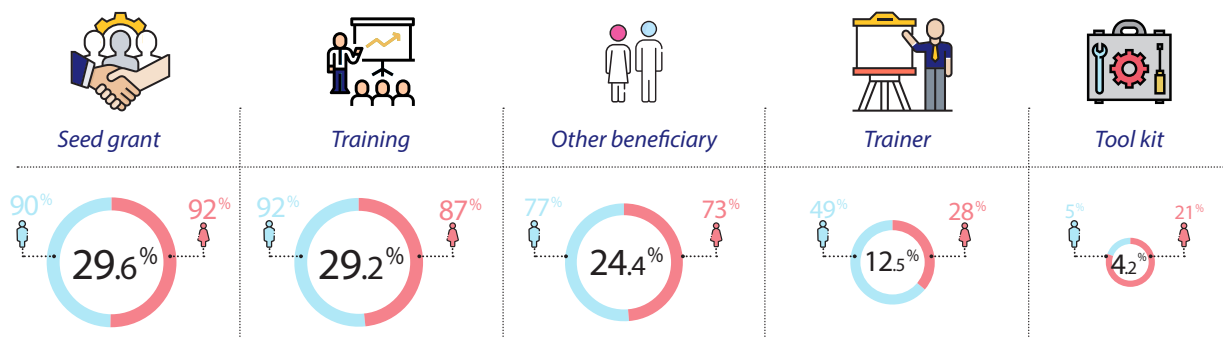


FIGURE 20

How the project helped them to address these challenges



Business Closures

The assessment found that around 11% of micro-businesses were closed. Across targeted governorates, 13% of micro-businesses in Aden were closed compared to 8% in Lahj. Among gender, 12% of female businesses were closed compared to 10% of male businesses (see Figure 22). Figure 23 shows the micro-businesses that have closed out of the total businesses of the same trade that interviewed during this impact assessment. The photography and cooling and air-conditioning businesses were the highest closed businesses.

Globally on average around 90% of business start-ups fail in the first year.⁽¹⁾ The start-up of businesses is not seen to be a major challenge but rather the sustainability and development of business is where the challenge lies.

The respondents stated that the main reasons behind closing their businesses included increasing raw materials/goods prices, unsuitable location of the business, high competition, lack of market, difficulty in collecting credit, increased debt, lack of mentoring, lack of access to funding and other reasons such as social commitment (e.g. marriage) (see Figure 23). During the FGDs and interviews, some beneficiaries

1) <https://www.forbes.com/sites/neilpatel/-90/16/01/2015of-startups-will-fail-heres-what-you-need-to-know-about-the4#/10-d6962326679>

revealed the reasons such as an attractive job offer, sell their assets (e.g. Camera or tool kit) to purchase a basic commodity or they were not serious about starting up a business.

Nevertheless, some beneficiaries who have successful micro-businesses reported overcoming the challenges through accessing some type of business support from the project including seed grants, advisory support

and participating in the networking activities with private sector and markets, support offered by family members following the example of others.

A combination of skills training, grants and mentoring plus a good selection of beneficiaries can act as collateral for successful micro-business.

FIGURE 21

To what extent did the project help you to address these challenges?

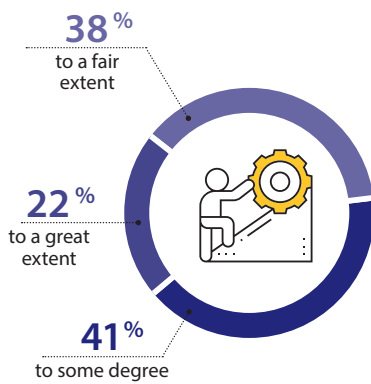


FIGURE 22

Percentage of closed businesses

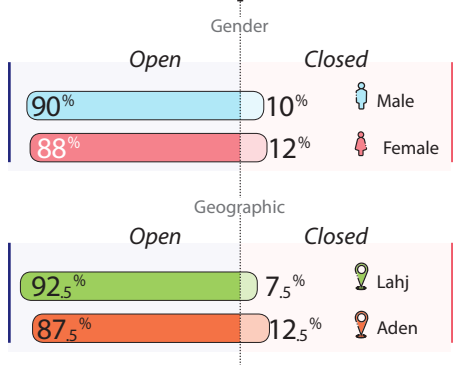


FIGURE 23

Percentage of closed businesses out of the total businesses from the same trade

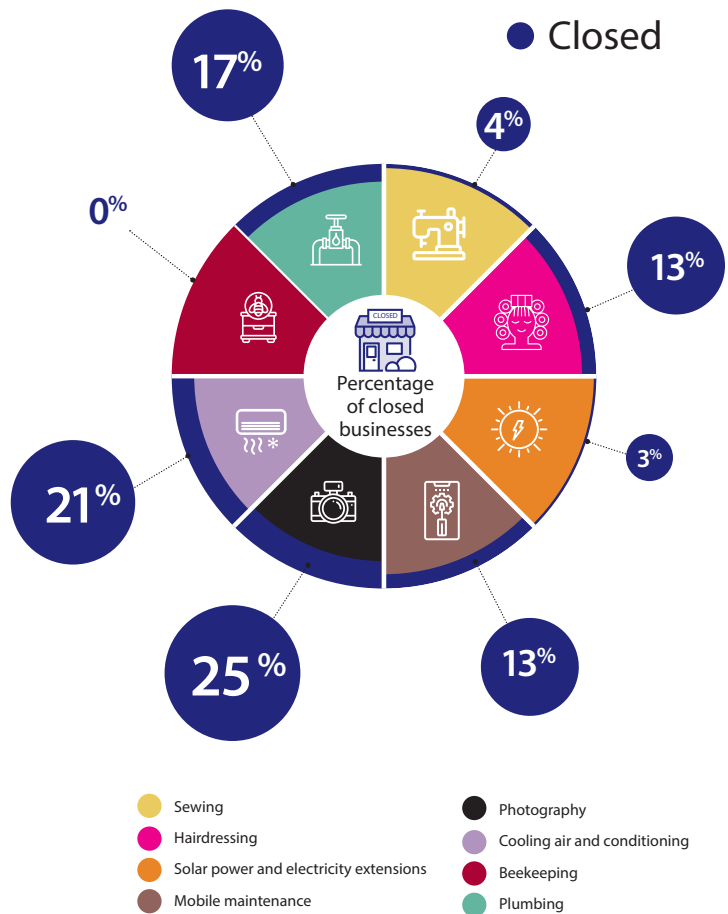
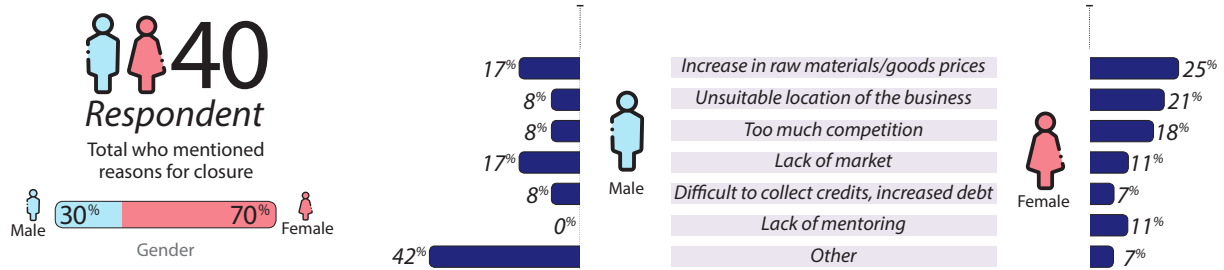


FIGURE 24

The main reasons behind closing businesses

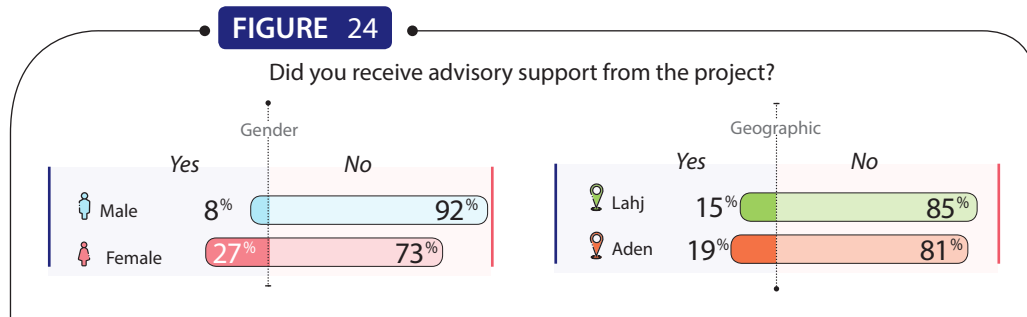


Business and Advisory Support Provision



Advisory support services were offered as part of the YLHS Phase II to provide guidance and advice to support youth and women to start and grow their micro-businesses. The assessment found that only 18% of beneficiaries received advisory support services and have had regular meetings with advisors

through virtual and social media to provide advice and hands-on support (see Figure 24). Among those who received advisory support, 89% stated that the advisory services contributed to starting up their businesses and were more sustainable (see Figure 26).



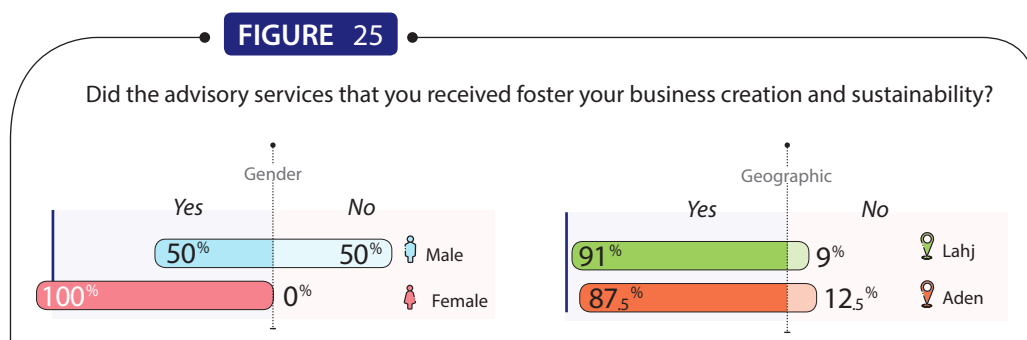
The advisory support services were cited as building directly on the needs of the beneficiaries through a systematic process, helping them find their own solutions to their problems and challenges, as well as addressing attitude problems that may negatively affect their businesses.

During the FGDs, most of the participants who benefited from the advisory support services indicated that as a result of the business consulting offered, they improved business management, market knowledge and a better understanding of businesses in general. In addition, business advisory sup-

port helped them to improve their business practices thereby leading to improved and sustainable micro-businesses.

Nonetheless, there are limiting factors affecting the impact of the advisory support services offered. The number of advisors offering support was limited. Together with the absence of business mentoring services to encourage beneficiaries to gain practical and hands-on experience and gain access to well-functioning business networks.

This limits the number of beneficiaries who receive support services.



“During the start-up phase of my business, I needed somebody to whom I could turn for advice, and that is what I have received from the project. The advisory support helped me find the right direction of my business and overcome the challenges.”



Fatima Hassan
Tuban district, Lahj

Access to Capital



Access to capital is one of the main constraints for women and youth for starting their micro-businesses. Specifically, women and youth do not have access to credit at a borrowing rate that is lower than their expected rate of return to capital, limiting their ability to invest. Responding to this constraint, grants allow women and youth to obtain credit at zero cost, and more appropriate for micro-business and the vulnerable people.

The YLHS project provided a seed grant to 790 beneficiaries, through a business startup competition, that included around 77% of the total beneficiaries (93% of beneficiaries in Phase I of the project and 67% of in Phase II) (see Figure 26). In addition, the project provided USD \$800 to each of the beneficiaries and was paid to beneficiaries in Yemeni Riyal.

The survey results indicated that beneficiaries in Phase I of the project received YER 200,000, while in the Phase II they received YER 400,000. According to the interviews with the project team and implementing partner, they mentioned that they had to change the value of grant as a result of depreciation of Yemeni Riyal and exchange rate.

The survey data indicated that the main sources of capital for beneficiaries were the seed grant from the YLHS project (91%), and personal savings (8%) (see Figure 27). The vast majority of beneficiaries in Aden (96%) relied solely on the seed grants they received from the project compared to 81% in Lahj, while only 4% had other capital sources in Aden including personal savings, a loan from their family or friends compared to 19% in Lahj (see Figure 28). The seed grant had a positive impact and contributed to starting up beneficiaries' micro-businesses. (Figure 29) shows that all beneficiaries who received the seed grants indicated that the grants contributed to starting their businesses to dif-

ferent degree. This finding confirmed during the FGDs, and some participants reported that received grants were not sufficient for their businesses, which may be sufficient for other businesses.

FIGURE 26

Percentage of Beneficiaries who received a seed grant from the first and second phases of the project

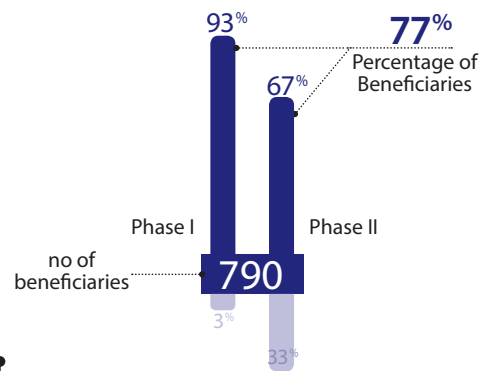


FIGURE 27

How did you find the money to start this business?

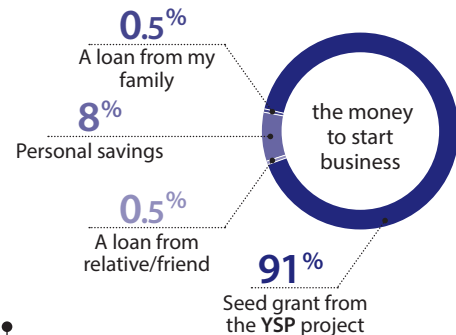


FIGURE 29

How did you find the money to start this business?

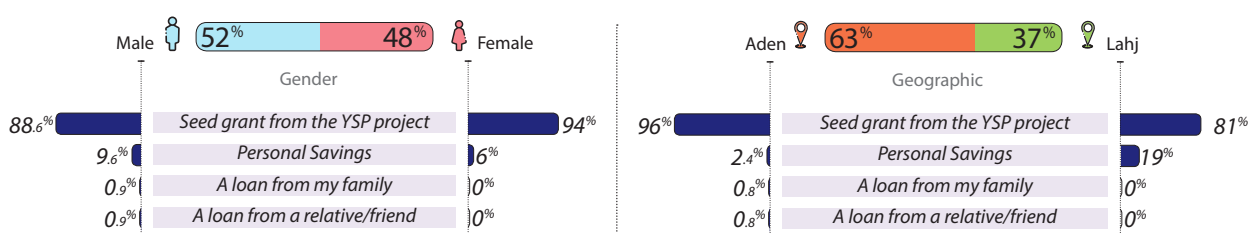


FIGURE 29 To what extent did the grant contribute to starting up your business?

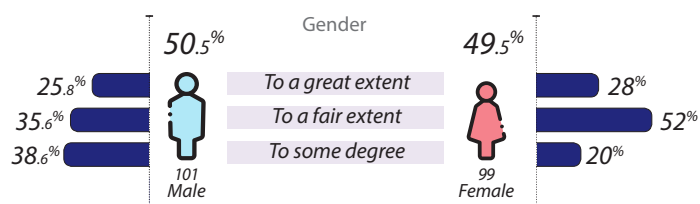


FIGURE 30 What would have happened if you had not received a grant from the project?

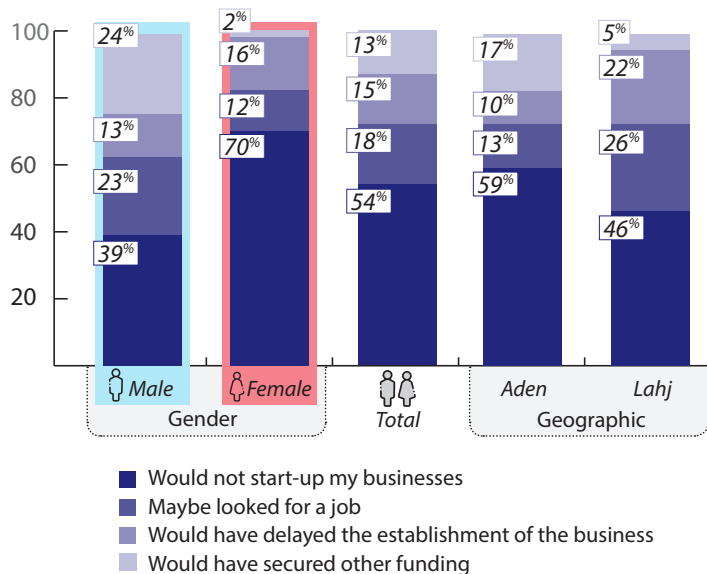
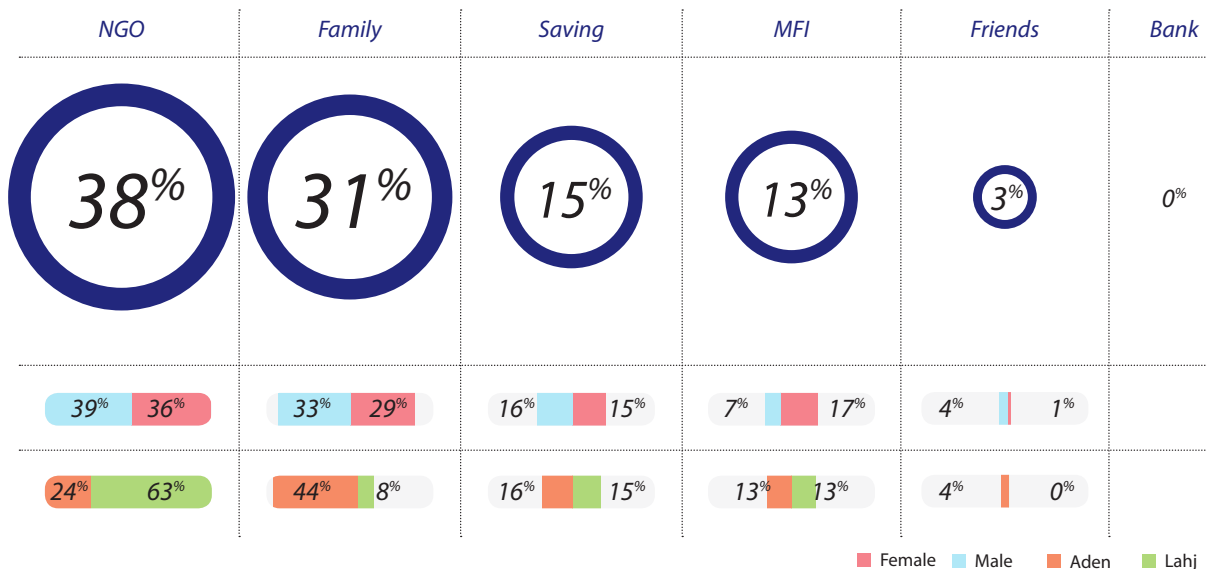


FIGURE 31 The preferred source of getting loans for business



Respondents were also asked what would have happened if they had not received a seed grant from the project. 54% of respondents revealed that without a grant they would not start-up their businesses, 18% may be looking for a job (e.g. in the private, public sectors, or even joining armed/military groups), 15% would have delayed the establishment of the business and only 13% would have secured other funding from their families, friends or sell their assets.

Among gender, 70% of females would not start their businesses if they had not received a grant compared to 39% of males, while 24% of males would have secured other funding to start their businesses compared to only 2% of females, which means that males are more likely to have access to capital than women, as well as in general women in Yemen face many challenges and barriers when they decide to start up their businesses including lack of access to information and income, and lack of assets for collateral, restrictions of movement, traditions, and customs, and low levels of education. Therefore, providing grants for women are appropriate as they enable them to be more enterprising in starting their businesses or grow them, as well as grants are considered good for businesses that depend on conditions that are beyond the control of women such as conflict and security situation, and women had little or no experience in handling money and virtually none qualified for loans.

There is also some variation in the targeted governorates. 59% of respondents in Aden reported if they had not received a grant from the project, they would not start their businesses compared to 46% in Lahj, while 17% in Aden would have secured other funding, compared to just 5% in Lahj, as shown in Figure 31.

This finding confirms that a seed grant has a great impact as one of the main sources of capital for the targeted beneficiaries, which would not have existed for most of the beneficiaries' micro-businesses without it.

The survey found that 22% of the respondents reported that they still face obstacles to funding their businesses (15% females, 28% males), and the main obstacles including they do not know how to apply for financing, no lending organizations, not being able to afford interest payments, and not being able to eligibility requirements for lending.

The respondents were asked about the most preferred source to have loans for their business. As shown in Figure 32, over 38% of respondents preferred to have a loan from NGO, 31% preferred to ask members of the family, 15% preferred to use savings, 13% go

to MFIs, and 3% preferred to ask their friends. 17% of females prefer to obtain loans from MFIs compared to 7% of males. This is maybe due to increasing awareness and availability of MFI services, and some women consider that obtaining a loan from an MFI is more readily available and relatively quick, and easy, as well as make them more independent. In addition, the opportunity afforded by microfinance to access a lump sum and repay it gradually is seen as a key benefit.

There was difference across geographic, as shown in Figure 32. Over 44% of beneficiaries in Aden prefer to access loan from family compared to only 8% in Lahj, while 63% in Lahj prefer to obtain loans from NGO compared to 24% in Aden. This is likely the households in Aden are better off than Lahj.

Above ratios reflect the status of the financial sector in Yemen, where the vast majority of people do not use formal financial services, and they prefer to obtain loans from their family members and friends rather than approaching banks or MFIs.

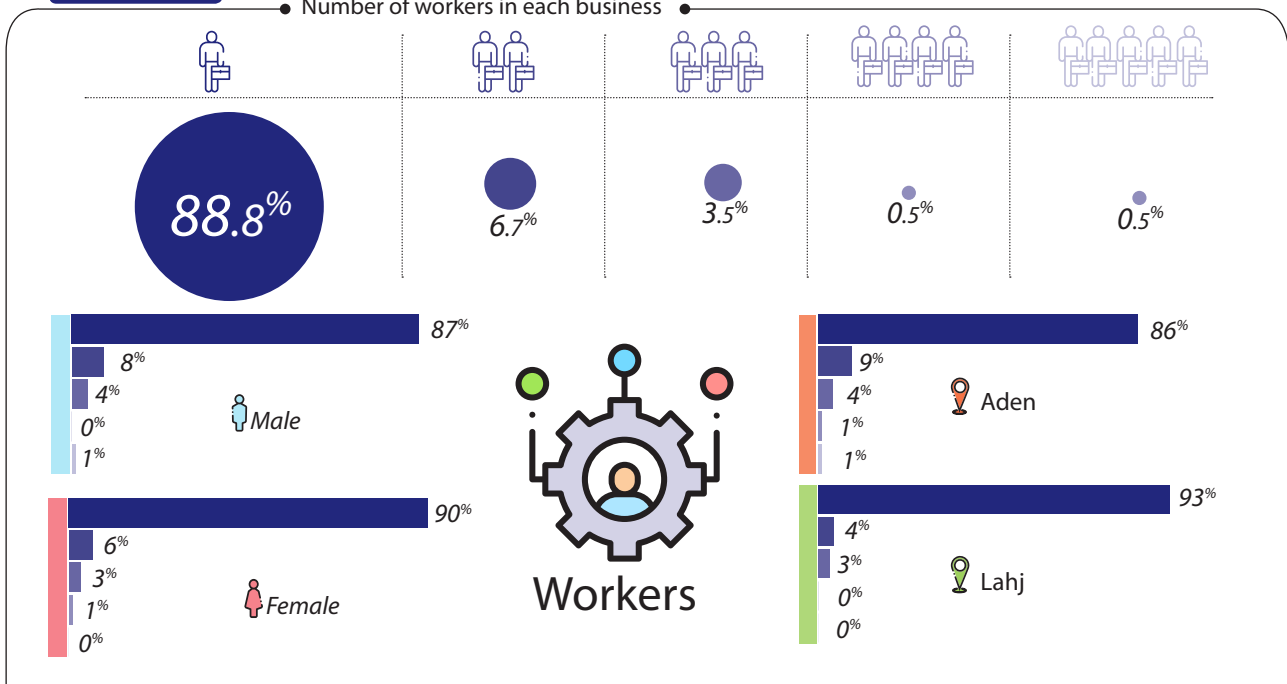
3.2.5. Employment

The impact assessment data reveals that the vast majority of businesses (89%) have only the owner who is working in the enterprise, while 7% of businesses have two workers, 4% with three workers, one business owned by a woman has four workers, and one business in Aden has got five workers. Some of the hair-dressers, sewing, cooling and air-conditioning business-

es more likely to have two workers and more. No significant difference was observed among males and females, as well as across geographic (see Figure 33). These findings reveal that the beneficiaries' businesses did not contribute much for the creation of job opportunities, which around 35 new jobs were created by the beneficiaries' businesses.

FIGURE 35

Number of workers in each business







The received seed grants were very important and contributed to start our businesses. We have been able to purchase professional cameras, however, the grants were not enough to buy the rest of imaging tools. Some of us had savings or got a loan to buy them and some could not.

*FGDs participant
Crater, Aden*



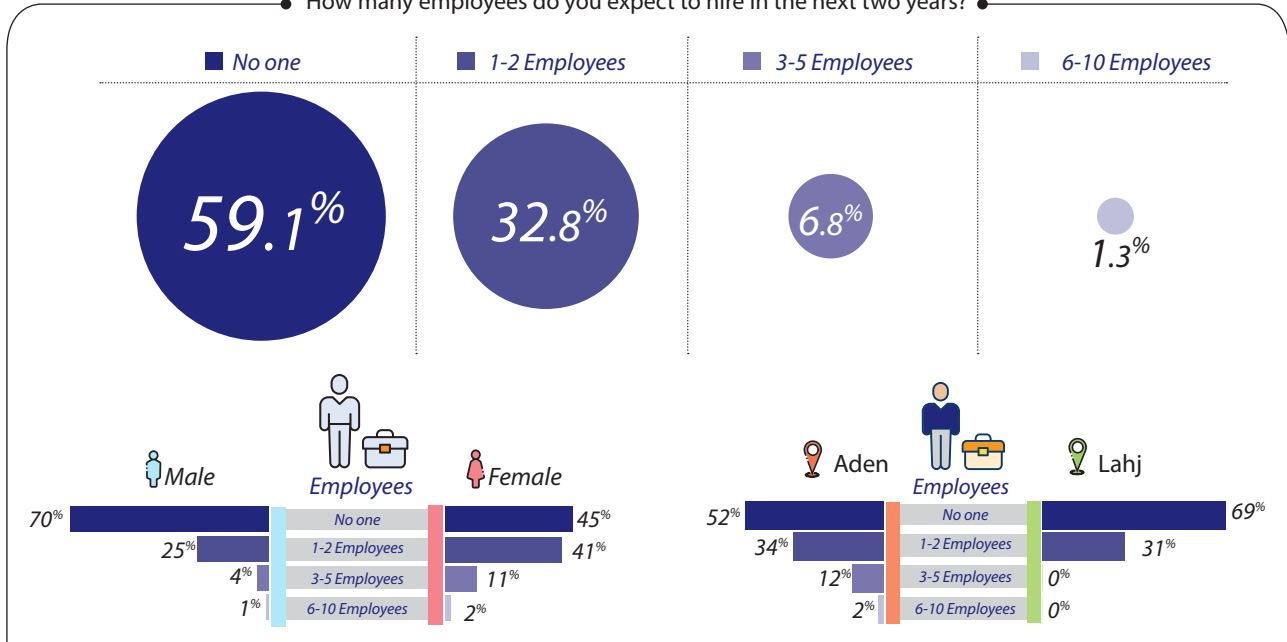
Respondents were asked if they expect to hire new employees in the next two years. 58% stated that they do not expect to hire new employees in the next two years while 33% plan to hire 1 to 2 employees in the next two years, 8% believe they could hire 3 to 5 employees, and only 2% of businesses reported that they expect to hire more than 5 employees in the next two years. Sewing, hairdressing, mobile maintenance and solar

power and electricity extensions businesses were more likely to hire new employees in the next two years. Among gender, 55% of female business owners revealed that they expected to hire new employees, compared to 30% of male business owners (see Figure 33).

The analysis of the impact on employment shows that the probability of female businesses hiring an employee is higher than the probability of a male business.

FIGURE 33

● How many employees do you expect to hire in the next two years? ●



3.2.6. Income/Profit

One of the main indicators of the impact on women and youth economic empowerment project is the income. The vast majority of beneficiaries (88%) reported that their micro-businesses make a profit while 12% stated that their businesses achieved the break-even point, and only 1% of businesses incurred a loss. There is no significant difference among gender, about 93% of female-owned' businesses made a profit, compared to 86% of males' businesses, while 17% of male-owned' businesses achieved the break-even point, compared to 6% of female businesses (see Figure 35). This is likely because most of the women's micro-businesses are home-based, which require relatively low cost.

In addition, the average break-even point for the vast majority of micro-businesses across sectors is between three to six months (68% of businesses reached a breakeven point

within the first 3 months while 25% within the first 6 months), and only 7% within one year. The main reasons behind achieving the breakeven were the low cost of most businesses because most businesses were home-based, which relatively require low cost, and businesses such as mobile maintenance, sewing, solar power and electricity extensions, and photography did not require raw materials. In addition, most businesses types were selected based on the community and market needs that have a good demand and helped beneficiaries to make good revenue and achieve the breakeven point faster.

These findings were confirmed when the income, expenses, and profit analyzed.⁽²⁾

Figure 35 shows YER 52,000 was the average monthly income, while YER 28,000 was the average expenses, and the average monthly profit was around YER 18,000.

2) The monthly income is expected to be more than YER 52,000, which some beneficiaries were not comfortable sharing information about their income

When asked if the respondents had an increase in their turnover in the next 6 months, 76% of businesses expected their turnover to increase a little in the next six months, while 13% expected their turnover to stay the same, 11% expected to increase substantially mainly in hairdressing, mobile maintenance and solar and electricity extensions business sectors, and only 1% said they expected a decrease in sewing business sector.

The main reasons for expecting growth in turnover have increased the demand, have new customers and have more experience. On the other hand, high inflation, unstable exchange rates and reduced purchasing of customers are the main reasons for expecting the turnover to decrease or stay the same.

FIGURE 34

● Monthly average of income, expenses and profit ●

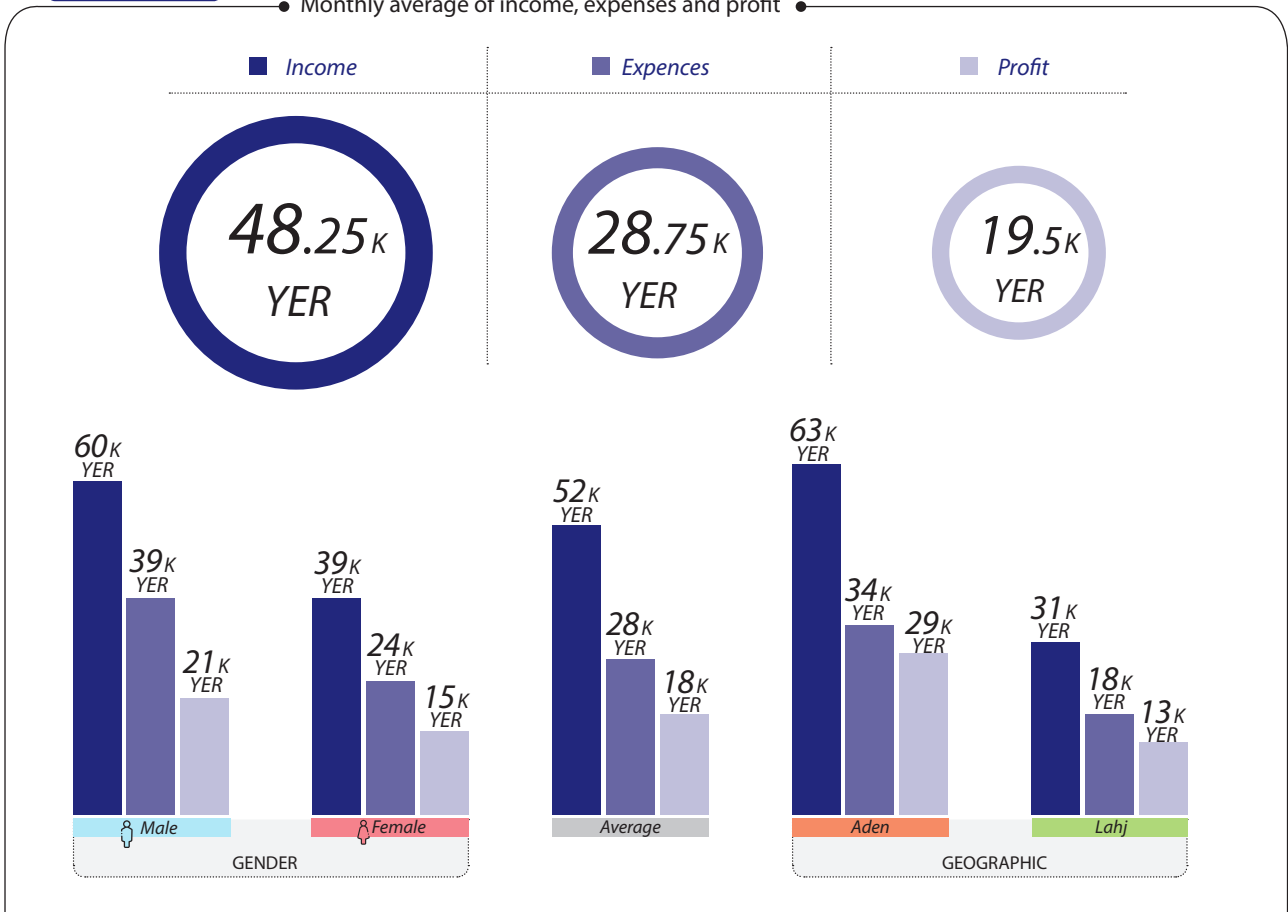
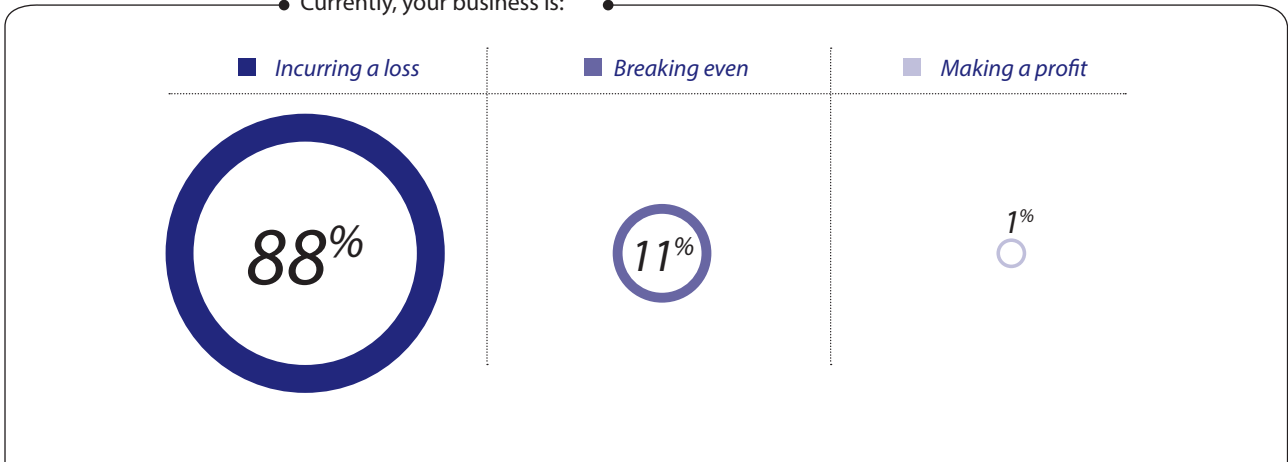


FIGURE 35

● Currently, your business is: ●



Utilization of Income



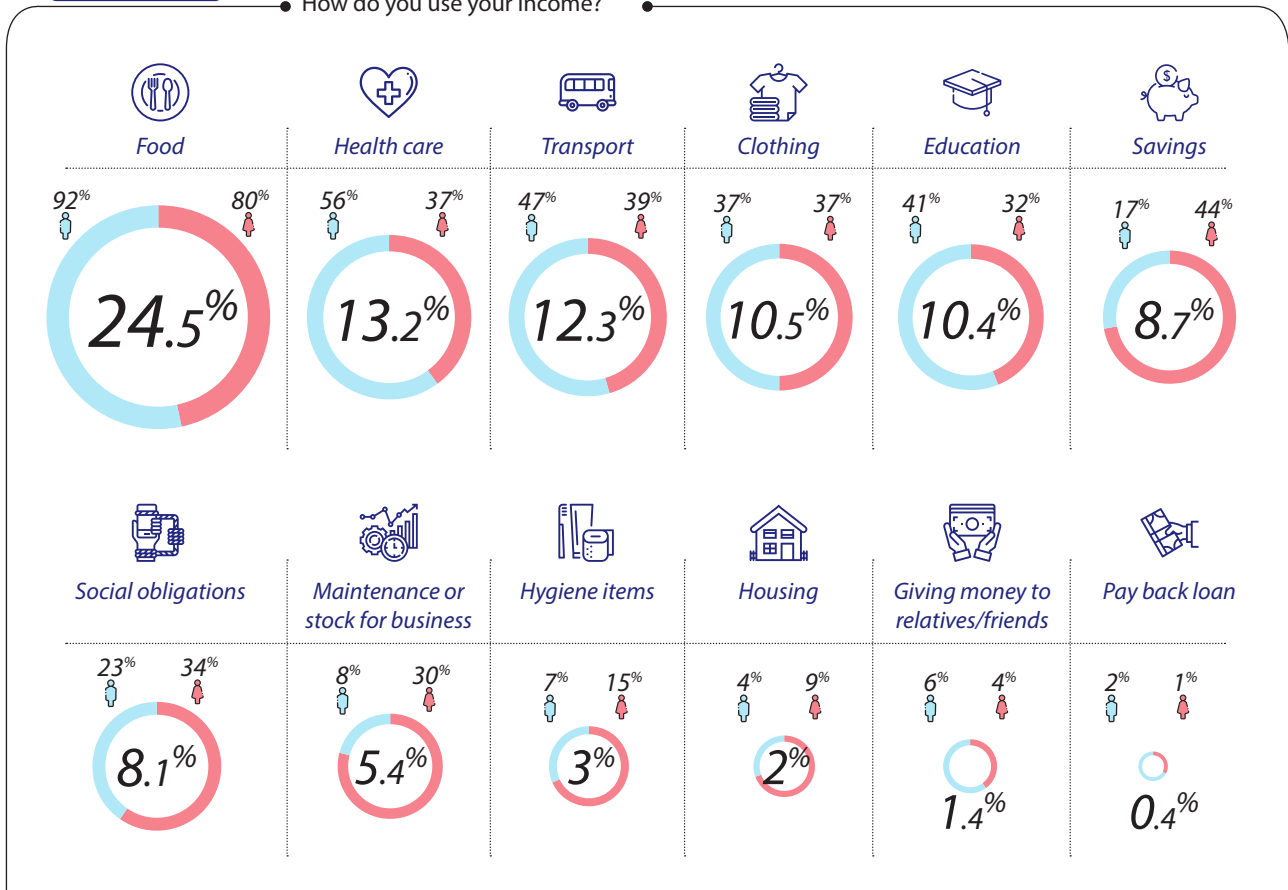
The impact assessment looked into the use of income generated from beneficiaries' businesses. The majority of beneficiaries (86%) tended to spend more income on food, while 47% of them tended to spend some income on health care, 43% transportation, 35% clothing, and 37% education. In addition, 31% of beneficiaries tended to save money, and 29% spend on social obligations

(see Figure 36).

The investment in social capital such as education can be seen as a positive impact of the project. This finding indicated that helping women and youth to establish their businesses and earn an income not only helps their own economic situation but also improves the welfare of their whole family.

FIGURE 36

• How do you use your income? •



During the FGDs, some of the participants stated that as a result of increased, more stable income rates, that, they felt confident about the future. This suggests that the YLHS project is having a positive effect on the lives

of their beneficiaries as well as increasing the quality of life of indirect beneficiaries such as family members who also benefiting from the changes in income resulting from the project.

Credit & Debit Status

The provision of credit in micro-businesses may be considered necessary for the maintenance of customers, however, these businesses may face many challenges such as reduced activities, loss in value of their money

due to high rates of inflation and depreciation of the local currency.

The assessment examined the status of the beneficiaries' businesses who have credit.

Figure 37 shows that 32% of female-owned businesses provide credit, compared to only 4% of men businesses, that is ranging between YER 4,000 to YER 60,000. Over 67% of businesses who have a credit reported that this credit affected their businesses negatively which reduced their businesses activities, while 33% stated that credits did not affect their businesses negatively due to the usage of their saving to buy goods or raw materials while they waited to collect credit from their customers. Figure 38 shows the gender breakdown of responses.

As was mentioned above, the YLHS project provided USD \$ 800 to each of the beneficiaries as seed grant which was the main source of capital for most of the beneficiaries (91%). While the assessment found only 1% of businesses obtained a loan from their family members or friends. This finding indicated that the seed grant has a great impact on the debit status of beneficiaries.

Demand and Supply

To measure the supply and demand state of the micro-businesses and their change, this survey tool pursued a line of questioning to examine the demand and supply.

The focused on the level of meeting demand, reasons behind the inability to satisfy demand, and the opportunity to expand businesses in the next few years and the motivations.

Over 26% of businesses felt they were sometimes unable to meet the demand of their current customers. Figure 39 shows the gender breakdown of responses.

Respondents also indicated three main reasons for their inability to satisfy demand including lack of money to buy more goods or stock (48%), lack of enough suppliers/sources to buy goods or raw materials in their areas (33%) and lack of the quality of their products and services (29%). These figures were confirmed by FGDs and interviews and they added other reasons including inflation, exchange rate fluctuations and cost of transport mainly in Lahj. These findings indicated that financial limitations were still a barrier to meeting demand and expanding businesses.

FIGURE 37

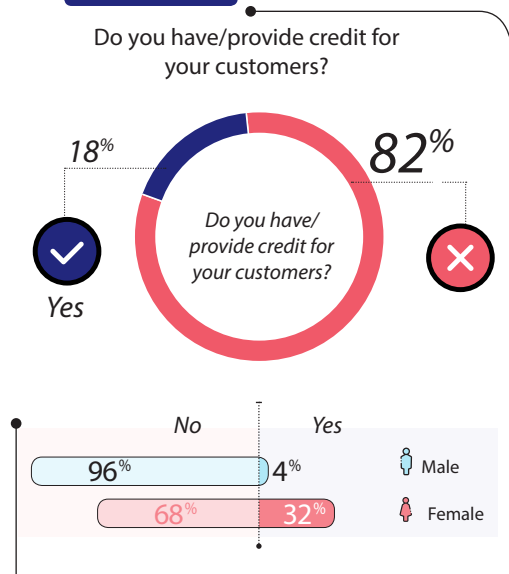
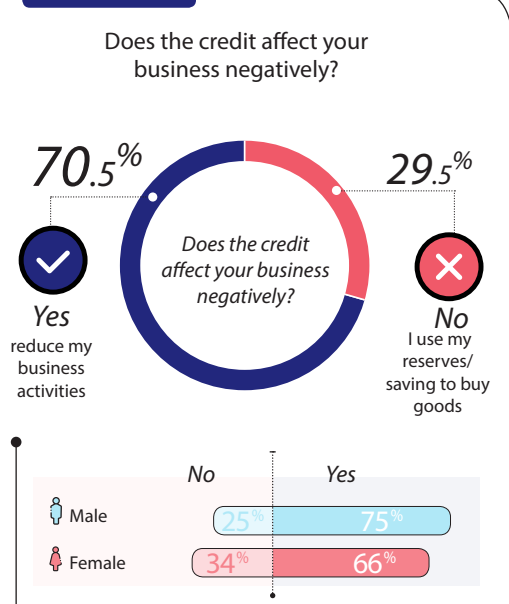


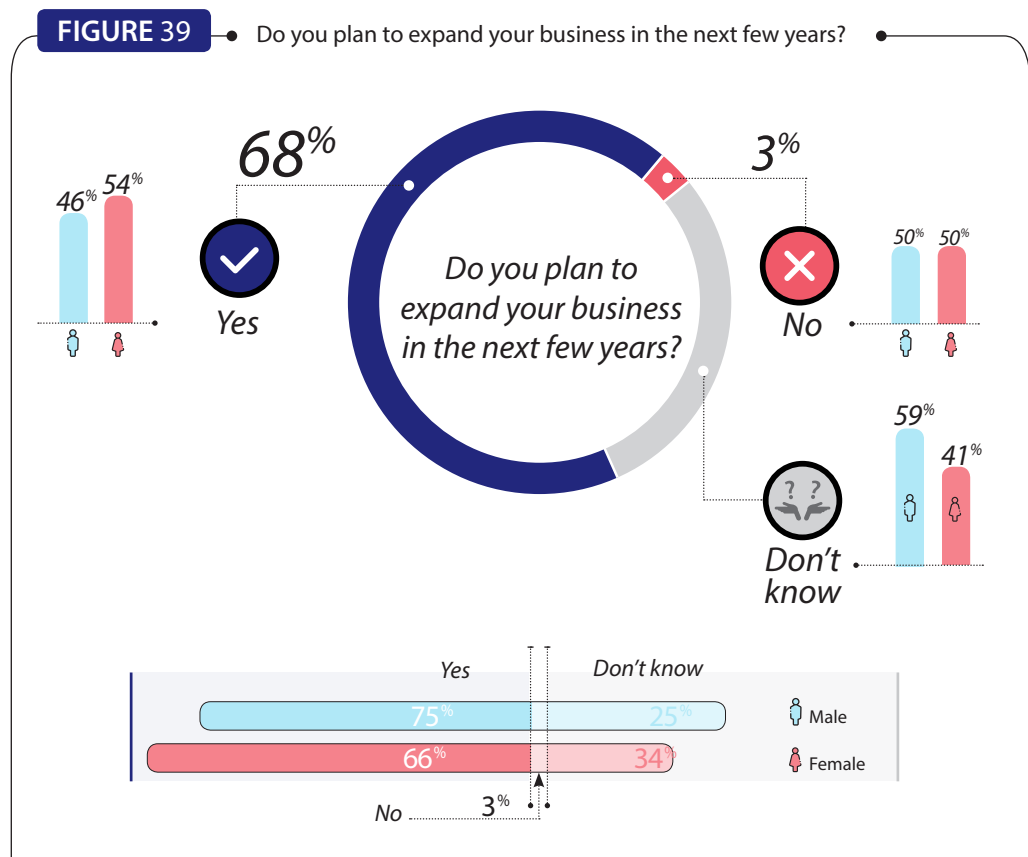
FIGURE 38



Scale-up Opportunities

When beneficiaries were asked if they planned to expand their businesses in the next few years, the majority of respondents (68%) planned to expand their businesses (hairdressing, cooling and air conditioning, plumbing, sewing and mobile maintenance), while 29% did not know, and only 3% revealed that they did not have a plan to expand their businesses in the next few years (see Figure 39). Among gender, 73% of fe-

male-owned businesses planned to expand compared to 63% of male-owned businesses. Motivation included to generating more income, to meeting customer demand, and to be more competitive. These findings indicated that there are still opportunities in the market, which may increase the stability of the businesses and have a positive impact in the mid and long term of businesses.



Networking and Linkages with Market Centres

The YLHS project micro-business beneficiaries were linked with MFIs, private sector and other stakeholders in the targeted districts.

Over 59% of respondents reported that they built a relationship and networks with other business owners. There were two types of networking that occurred including within beneficiaries who work in the same field or that they can offer services to each other from the same area and networking with suppliers within the same areas or outside the areas.

Gender wise, 70% of men stated that they had networked with other business owners compared to 47% of women as shown in

Figure 40 below. Ratios reflect the women's social situation, women's mobility may be restricted, compared with men due to traditional culture and social norms.

Respondents were asked if the market linkages have any positive impact on their business's turnover. 41% of business owners reported that the market linkages with other businesses and suppliers have a positive impact on their business turnover from different dimensions including increasing the number of customers, expanding the market to new areas, exchanging information and customers among members of the network, turning some members of the network to

customers in other businesses, as well as decreasing the cost of products or raw materials due to having a good relationship with suppliers (see Figure 41).

Because most of the women's businesses are home-based and women's mobility may be

restricted, encouraging networking or group businesses with family members or friends who can help market products may be beneficial. Furthermore, exploring opportunities for e-marketing of women's products could greatly expand market reach.

FIGURE 40

Did you build relationships or networks with other business owners?

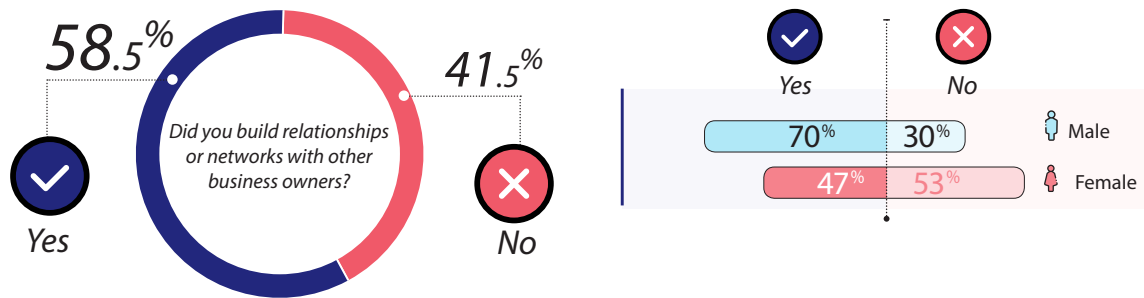
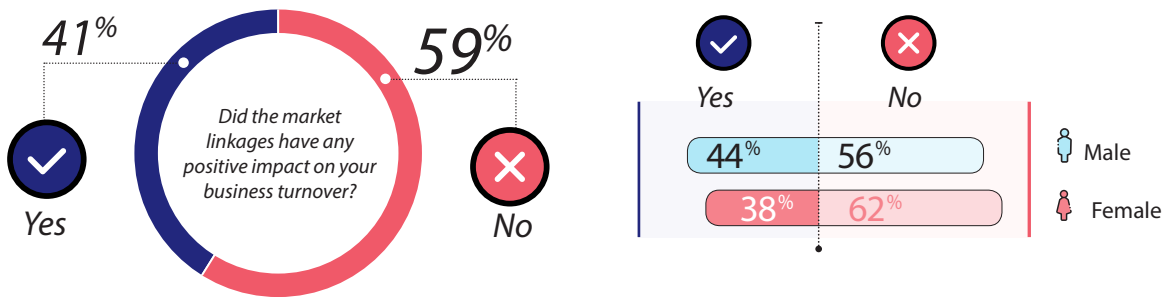


FIGURE 41

Did the market linkages have any positive impact on your business turnover?



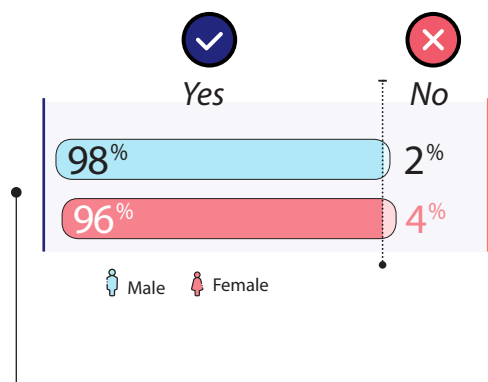
Financial Risks, Continuity and Opportunity Cost

Despite the fact that many challenges and financial risks are still encountered by micro-businesses, as 97% of respondents indicated that they believe their businesses will continue for the next two years across all sectors (see Figure 42). They would develop their products/services, introduce new products/services, seek new customers and markets, exploit opportunities in the market, and continuously develop their knowledge and skills. While 3% of respondents reported that if the economic, political and security situation in the country does not improve, they may be forced to close their businesses.

During the FGDs some participants stated that given the deteriorating economic conditions including high inflation, exchange rate fluctuation, a weak enabling environment, the low purchasing power of community, they are likely to close their businesses and seek other jobs instead. In addition, some said they had to close their businesses and sell their assets.

FIGURE 42

Do you think that your business will continue for the next two years?





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5 PV
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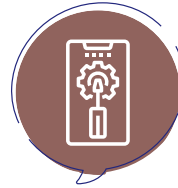
OFF

suction switch

HOT
CAUTION

HALI

701L



My real life began once I became the first mobile phone technician in my area. Everyone is coming to fix his/her mobile phone, especially women who feel confident that their secrets and personal photos will not be misused.

Ms. Najeda Naseeb,
Beneficiary





3.3. Social impact

This section describes the social impact of livelihood and protection interventions. It tested whether assistance contributed to protection, mainly reduced violence, vulnerability and enhanced social cohesion and access to justice, and changed people's attitude.

Protection

During the interviews with implementing partners, it was reported that beneficiaries of Psychosocial Support (PSS) sessions were the same of the livelihood components in Phase II as the project, while it was not the case in Phase I, where the beneficiaries not attended the PSS sessions.

The beneficiaries were provided (PSS) sessions which covered overcoming trauma, main protection issues and solutions, referral mechanism of cases, youth initiatives in the community, building relationships and conflict resolutions.

According to the interviews with the PSS sessions' beneficiaries, most of them revealed that the PSS training was very useful and

helped them deal with post-traumatic stress caused by living through conflict such as loss of lives, loss of property and bearing witness to extreme violence. In addition, some of the beneficiaries indicated that the PSS helped them to strengthen their capacity to identify people in need of assistance and train them to resolve community-based conflicts. However, some of the beneficiaries reported that the duration was very short, and the PSS should have more time.

The project created the Community Based Protection Network (CBPN) in each targeted district from influencers, justice providers, Imams, youth, teachers and community leaders to address protection cases and de-



“I was jobless and had no goal in life. That’s why I would accept any offer to make money and support my sizable family,” Bilal said.”



Bilal Ali
Al-Tawahi district, Aden

velop a work plan to enhance the social cohesion of the community and neighborhood peacebuilding, as well as to act as protection actors in the absence of the law and with the unstable condition of courts and prisons. The project supported seven safe spaces in the targeted districts to establish a place for sessions, training, justice providers and CPBN meetings and referral of cases to other protection networks.

In FGDs with CBPN and justice providers in Aden, they revealed that the community campaigns on the risk of drugs that was conducted for more than 700 people in Crater and Attwahi districts had a positive impact including lower drug use among youth, less association with delinquent peers and lower engagement in violent crime. To enhance impact the project should target more beneficiaries and location. In addition, some of them mentioned that the lighting initiative in the graveyard in Crater district contributed to improving the community safety and protection, that targeted community faced risk while they walk through the graveyard at night. Furthermore, CPBN and justice providers indicated that they helped more than eight cases (7 females and 1 males) in the last

two months, most of them had psychiatric disorders, psychological state, family disintegration, depression and emotional shock.

In Lahj, CPBN and justice providers reported that the community campaign on sexual harassment that targeted the students (both boys and girls) in five schools in Tuban district had a positive impact on the life of students and their behavior as well as reduced the sexual harassment violence. Moreover, some participants reported that the rehabilitation of Al-Salam Sport Club initiative in Tour Al-Baha district contributed to the functionality of the club which is the only public club in the district, and helped youth practicing sport activities in a safe place, improve the social cohesion and protection, as well as reduce the violence.

During the FGDs, CPBN and justice providers indicated that they helped more than 24 cases (19 females, and 5 males), most of them had psychiatric disorders, psychological state, depression and anxiety. Most of those cases needed referral to other service provider, however, due to lack of resources and capacity for most of the service providers and NGOs do not accept any referred cases.

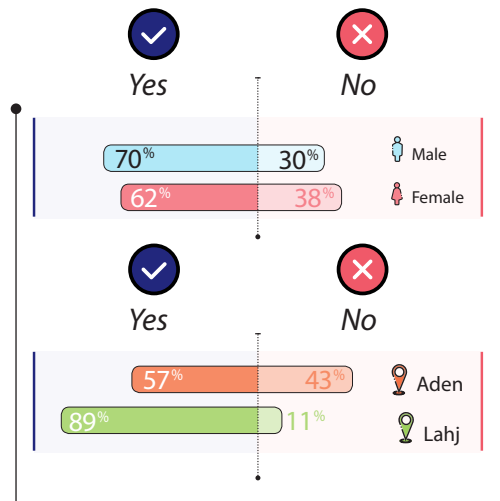
Vulnerabilities

The project targeted the most vulnerable groups in the targeted districts in Aden and Lahj Governorates including poor households in post-conflict areas and who were at risk of violent extremism by providing beneficiaries with livelihoods opportunities, protection means, capacity building and PSS to those who were traumatized due to conflict.

Over 66% of respondents stated that their participation in the project activities enabled them to become more self-reliant, reducing their vulnerabilities, as most of them started income-generating activities such as a micro business, or find a job, that led to having more access to food and basic services. (see Figure 43). Across the targeted governorates, 89% of respondents from Lahj indicated they became more dependent on themselves and felt less vulnerable, compared to 57% in Aden. Across gender, 70% of males' respondents, compared to 62% of females felt more self-reliant and felt less vulnerable after their participation in the project activities. Among the factors that contributed to economic empowerment and protection are skills development, vocational and business training, starting up micro-businesses, and PSS support.

FIGURE 43

Do you think that your participation in the project activities enabled you to become more dependent on yourself and reducing your vulnerabilities?



Economic Opportunities As Bulwark Against Violent Extremism

As for conflict vis-a-vis economic empowerment, over 44% of respondents indicated that access to enhanced economic opportunities mitigated the likelihood of conflict(s) (25% females, 62% males). An estimated 35% of respondents thought the project interventions contributed to mitigate the traumatic consequences of the conflict. This can be attributed to increasing awareness, availability of economic opportunities, and focusing more on productivity.

Conflict reduction is seen by many of those interviewed as a by-product of increased employment. Therefore, many argued that by increasing employment opportunities, the risk of conflict and violent extremism amongst youth has correspondingly been reduced.

During the FGDs most participants stated that unemployment and leisure time are considered enemies for most youth compounded with hard and difficult economic conditions. With the absence of economic

support from the government or any other agency, the potential of young people is not leveraged. Nevertheless, with participation in the livelihood improvement interventions they became able to make money and escape the scourge of poverty and need.

These findings suggest that when more economic opportunities are made available, fewer people tend to be involved in conflict and violent extremism.



**The YLHS project
contributed to
preventing youth
against violent
and extremism**

*Mohsen al-Saqqaf,
Director of Tub Tuban district, Lahj*



Access to Justice

The data in this impact assessment corroborates reliance on informal structures of justice provision. Respondents were asked who they would turn to if they were the victim of a crime before and after the project. The most frequently cited was the police even before and after the project, accounting for 35% of responses before the project, compared to 33% after the project, which is still more trusted. Family and friends ranked second with 25% of the responses, compared to 27% before the project. A 21% reported that they would turn to influential elders, 9% to community leaders and only 7% of respondents would turn to the court system, compared to 5% before the project (see Figure 44). The second and third figures rise to 35% for women and just 15% for men, reflecting the preferences of women on informal structures as well as the challenges in accessing justice systems.

A result, women tend to place less trust than men in key institutions or individuals associated with justice. Men (48%) are also significantly more likely than women (21%) to go to the police in the event of a crime. Significant variation emerges when examining the data by targeted governorates. Whereas in Aden the police was the institution that most respondents would turn to, while in Lahj family and friends emerged as the primary point of interaction for respondents.

As mentioned above, the project successfully created the CBPN in each targeted district to address protection cases and develop a work plan to enhance the social cohesion of the community and neighborhood peacebuilding, as well as to act as protection actors in the absence of the law and with the unstable

FIGURE 45

Do you feel that your ideas and behaviours have changed after your participation in the YLHS project?

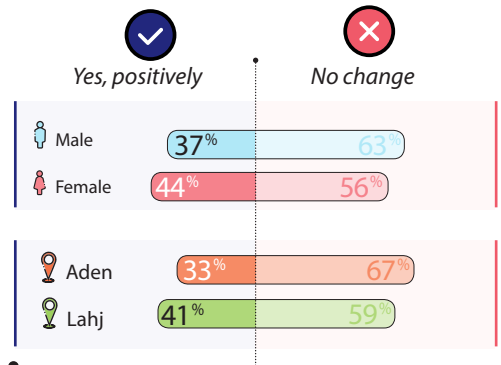


FIGURE 46

Do you think that the program activities have reduced gender-based violence mainly against women?

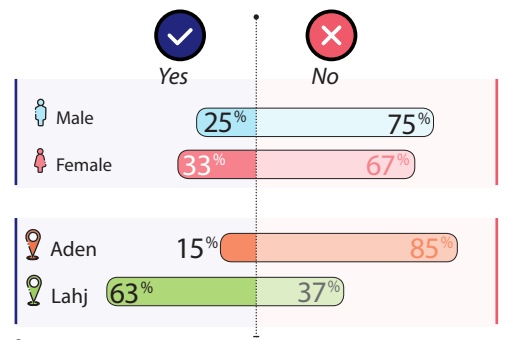
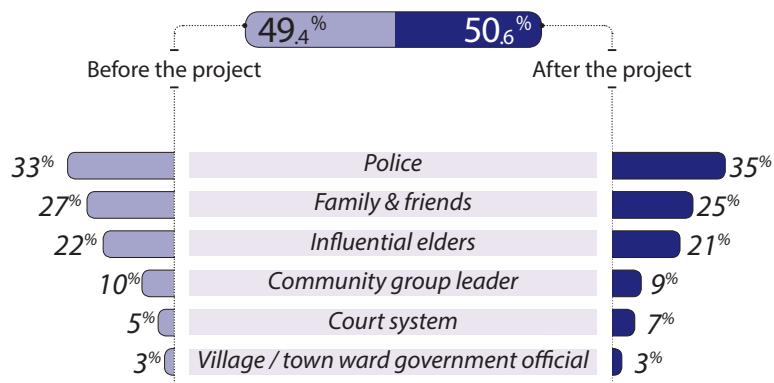


FIGURE 44

To whom or what organization would you turn to first in the event of a crime?



condition of courts and prisons. The project also created seven safe spaces in the targeted districts in order to create a physical place to ensure that the justice services group network will continue its support for the community members who are in need of legal consultation and mediation support.

During the FGDs with the CBPN and safe space members, they reported that they pro-

vided their services for tens of beneficiaries, most of them women, even after the project is ended. Most of them stated that the project has made a significant contribution to improved access to justice for members of the target communities, mainly women. On the other hand, some of them revealed that they cannot provide their services as planned due to lack of financial resources, and capacity-mainly in Lahj.

People's Attitude

The assessment has sought to identify whether participation in the YLHS project activities may contribute to improving relations with family and community members, and consequently enhancing social cohesion, protection, and prevention of extreme violence. Over 34% of respondents reported that relationships with their family improved as a result of their participation in the YLHS project. Across the gender, 39% of women stated that their participation in the project improved relationships with their families, compared to 29% of males (see Figure 47). The respondents stated that the key reasons behind the improvement of relationships included the ability to support family members, contribute to living expenses, sense of pride, thanks for improving their income and self-reliance. In addition, during the FGDs some participants stated that the project contributed to reducing family disagreements, and improved the intra-family relationships.

At the community level, 25% of respondents indicated that there was a positive community attitude towards them after their partici-

pation in the project and being economically empowered, more experienced, and trusted service providers (see Figure 48).

Overall, the project has had a positive impact in terms of social cohesion, i.e. improved intra-family relationship and community attitudes towards the project beneficiaries.

FIGURE 48

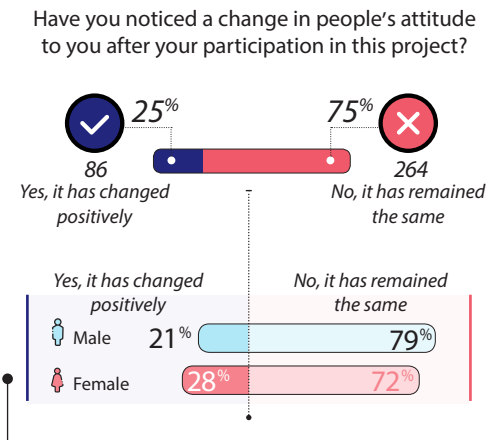
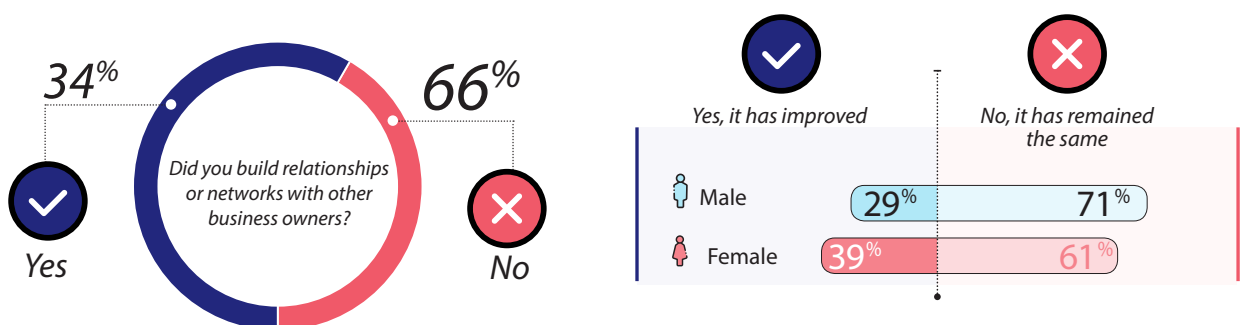


FIGURE 47

Do you feel that your participation in this project affected the relationships with your family?



Role of Women and Youth in Local Decision-Making and Protection

Only 12% of respondents feel that the project contributed to enhancing the role of women and youth to some extent in local decision-making and protection-related issues (see Figure 49). However, a vast majority of respondents cited enhanced belonging to their communities, although it is not the same for all of them (see Figure 50) because they become part of the market dynamic and interact with different market players.

During the FGDs, some participants reported that they had a chance to share the decision to implement the local initiatives, and have been involved in resolving some social conflicts with the local authorities.

FIGURE 49

Do you feel that the project increased the roles of women and youth in local decision-making and their access to livelihood, services, and jobs?

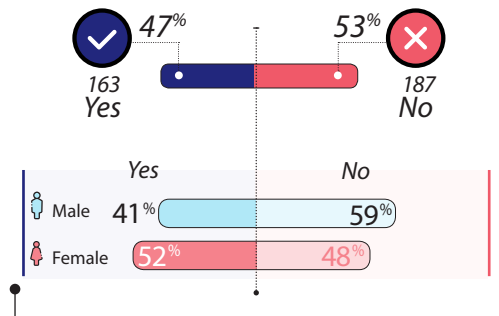
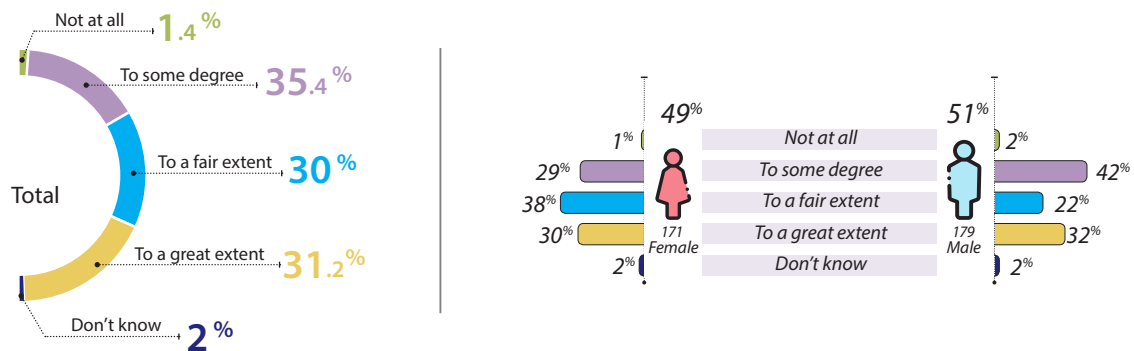


FIGURE 50

To what extent do you feel that this intervention makes you belong to your community?



3.3.4. Social Cohesion

During the FGDs and interviews, almost all participants indicated that the CFW activities improved social cohesion within targeted communities. They reported that CFW activities were selected and implemented through community participation, bringing various groups of community members together including local authorities and representative of communities, addressing community needs, creating emergency employment opportunities for the most vulnerable segment of the population. Some of them added the CFW activities had created a sense of unity and cooperation among community members to achieve common goals.

According to the interviews with the local authorities and some of the community leaders, most of them indicated that youth initiatives reflected a strong alignment with the local communities' needs and more tangible results for people which also enhanced protection.

Additionally, interviews with some of the youth initiatives members indicated that the initiatives were a great chance for them to enhance protection-related measures into their communities, strengthening their leadership capacity and participation in the decision making.



The project came at the right time for young people in Al Tawahi. It promoted coexistence and social solidarity among young people from families affected by the war.

*Mr. Wahib Al Sharjabi,
The Director of Social Affairs
Office in Aden*



Improvement of Local Assets:

In addition to creating employment opportunities and providing income to the most vulnerable community members, the CFW interventions notably improved access to public services, and community assets for respective communities, as well as changed

behavior of target beneficiaries towards income generation, and enhanced social cohesion, protection and prevention of extreme violence. Table 5 highlights specific services improved by implementing CFW interventions.

TABLE 5

• CFW interventions' improvement of service accessibility •

Type of CFW activity	Improved services
<p>Economic: Rehabilitation of market center and provision of and instellation lights</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved access to market • Enhanced protection
<p>Water and sanitation: Rehabilitation of wells, water network points, water retention ponds, garbage clean-up, cleaning of sewage tank or drainage, etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved access to water sources for the local community • Enhanced the convenience and helped free up time for other activities mainly for women • Reduced the cost of potable water • Enhanced protection
<p>Education: Repair and rehabilitation of classrooms/ boundary, pavement, school garden, WASH facilities improvement and building a wall for the VT center that was damaged during the conflict and is leading to robberies at the center, awareness campaigns on hand washing to school students</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved education services • Enhanced health and hygiene of students • Enhanced protection
<p>Health: Cleaning of the hospital garden in order to create green space for the patients, rehabilitation of minor electronic devices in hospital</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved access to health services • Enhanced health and hygiene of the beneficiaries



4

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this impact assessment, the following recommendations can be made in a future livelihood and protection interventions.

To enhance impact

- Implement an integrated response including livelihood and protection activities to the same beneficiaries.

Improve livelihood and protection activities and delivery mechanisms

- Facilitate job preparation for women and youth, who do not wish to start businesses establishing partnerships with businesses to help prepare them for the workplace.

This helps ensure that vocational training is catering to the needs of the workforce.

Partnerships should be forged between service-providing NGOs, vocational training institutes and employers.

- Ensure higher quality in the vocational training in terms of more and better training materials, longer time and more chances of practicals inside and outside the training center.

- Economic empowerment should be linked with Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs), and benefiting from the Loan Guarantee Program to ensure sustainability. In addition, group-credit approaches should be promoted for women and youth who do not have enough capital at an individual level to start businesses.

- To create a peer education mechanism that encourages women and youth who benefited from the program to share their knowledge, skills, and experience within women and youth in their communities.

- Develop apprenticeships and build linkages with the private sector for the youth to practice their skills in the real market, enhance their professional confidence and competitiveness for self-employment.

- Promote entrepreneurship-enabling environment; enhancing the link between women and youth entrepreneurs and stakeholders (e.g. government, Chambers of Commerce, Business Club, etc.) to identify barriers, share ideas, and develop solutions for an improved business environment.

- Establish women and youth hubs and networks in each of the targeted governorates or develop a safe space to provide and maintain a database of business opportunities. These hubs can be responsible for hunting and promoting for novel venture ideas. The hubs will continue to be a place for women

and youth to share lessons and best practices for starting and expanding businesses, as well as encourage beneficiaries to form cooperatives to strengthen economic resilience and social cohesion.

Improve protection activities and delivery mechanisms through:

- Enhance the roles of women and youth in local decision-making, through strengthening women and youth advocacy skills and supporting youth initiatives and dialogues. Youth and women engagement is critical in peacebuilding and recovery in their communities, and employment opportunities deter youth from taking up arms and prolonging the conflict. Greater participation of women and youth in public and economic spheres contributes to lowering vulnerability to conflict as well as leading to lower levels of corruption.

- Enhance information sharing, referral, and coordination efforts among implementing partners.

- **Improve the role of women and youth in local decision-making through building their capacity, knowledge and skills. Greater attention should be paid by the project teams, women and youth to advocacy and lobbying for decision-making for women and youth needs to the advocacy and lobbying to influence decision-making on women and youth needs.**



Lessons learned and best practices

Lessons learned and best practices from the project that can be applied in similar settings in future:



- Supporting institutions with relevant and wide mandates to provide an opportunity for the future sustainability of the results.
- An important best practice that enhanced the sustainability of the project was engaging stakeholders including local authorities, protection actors (L/INGOs and cluster), to ensure the success of the project.
- Vocational business skills training is a key factor to equip the most vulnerable women and youth with employability skills and providing them with toolkits or grants encouraging them to start their micro-businesses without waiting for loans.
- Youth initiatives reflected a strong alignment with the local communities needs and more tangible results for people as well as enhanced protection-related measures into their communities, strengthening their leadership capacity and participation in the decision making.
- Enhancing social connections between women and youth groups and local communities, by promoting commercial connections and dialogues, reduces support for violence.



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