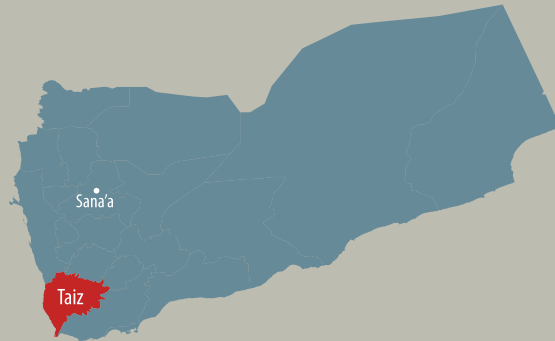




Voices of

Sharjab Community, Taiz Governorate



Sharjab is a small community of **397 families** (1,042 men, 1,168 women) where youth represent the highest share, the marginalized groups (Muhamasheen) amounts to 6%. Residents of Sharjab are working in farming, livestock breeding, construction works and some are civil servants.

Main risks

- Water shortage
- Sharp increase in food and non-food items
- Fuel shortage
- Rising insecurity
- Eruption of local conflicts over water and gas

Coping mechanisms

- Using wood instead of cooking gas
- Using candles and old lanterns (kerosene lamps) to replace electricity and generators
- Using gas as fuel
- Turning to black market to buy fuel
- Selling hard assets for cash

At a glance:

- The **main** income **sources** at the **community** are public and private **jobs**, farming, **livestock** and trading.
- The monthly expenditures categories include **brown** and **white flour**, rice, sugar, oil, ghee, beans, water, medicines and gas.
- Most of the village **houses** are made of **old stones**; the first floors are usually for **livestock** housing.
- Patriarchal **family structure**: **Men** are mainly responsible for securing an income for their families while **women** are managing household expenditures.

Opportunities



Community-based social support:

Residents in the village always cooperate to find solutions to their community challenges. Faced with difficulties, community members provide in-kind and cash support to the poorest families as well as deliver training to secure an income through improved skills. The main source of funding for this community-based social support is from members' donations.



Availability of basic services:

On infrastructure, the main roads are paved by the government while the secondary roads within the villages are paved by the community members themselves. Electricity and telecommunications systems are present. A branch of Taiz University is located only nine kilometers away from the village. Schools are located in the village.



Replicating existing business training opportunities:

Around 25 community members (men and women) have received business startup course in December 2014 related to sewing, farming, and hairdressing in nearby Aldemna village. As a result, their incomes have improved and such a programme could be replicated.



Potential home-based businesses:

Existing home-based businesses can be further supported and sectors already include sewing, cheese and sweets making for the local market.



Basic needs are met:

Average monthly expenditures per family amounts to USD 140 (YR 30,000) which is enough to cover their basic needs.



Presence of Judiciary and security institutions:

Residents of Sharjab can easily access the judiciary and the security institutions which are all located at the center of the district.

Challenges

Depletion of hard assets:

people are selling cattle and jewelry as prices have largely increased.

Incidents of diseases and poor health system:

There are no health units at the village, the nearest hospitals are nine kilometers away and the medical services are not affordable by the majority. Among children, common diseases include diarrhea, infections, water prone diseases and malnutrition.

Partisan-biased support:

Political parties only support their followers.

Weak capacities of CBOs:

Interventions of Community Based Organizations are limited and do not cover all community needs.

Child labor:

The area had no previous history of child labor, some cases have recently emerged because of the current crisis.

Information gap:

No assessments have been conducted on the availability of natural resources.

Lack of access to households assets:

Households assets are available for the majority people but, due to the lack of fuel, nobody is able to use it anymore.

Gender inequality in local governance processes:

The community members participate in the decision making process related to local developmental issues through regular meetings that are limited to men only.

Poor agricultural yields:

Productive agriculture lands and crops [corn, wheat, barley and legumes] are not fully exploited due to water scarcity, insects and no irrigation.

Poor Sanitation system:

Only open sewers are available, there are no trash collection points and trash are thrown away in non-crowded areas.

No institutional asset building support:

Poorest families receive cash assistance from the Social Welfare Fund (SWF). However, no institutional programmes to enhance their community-based asset and their growth are reaching them.

"Voices of" is a series of community-level consultations led by UNDP in Yemen using inclusive focus group discussions that seek to: identify their fragilities, prioritise opportunities and challenges, and highlight the vulnerability of community livelihoods assets to sustain the crisis.



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

United Nations Development Programme
Yemen
www.ye.undp.org

For more information, please contact:
Farah Abdessamad, Programme Specialist, farah.abdessamad@undp.org
Kawkab al-Thaibani, Communication and Advocacy Specialist, Kawkab.althaibani@undp.org

June 2015